

## Kidnappers silent on hostage release

BEIRUT (R) — Kidnappers kept silent Tuesday while pro-Iranian political sources in Lebanon confirmed reports that a European hostage would be freed soon. "A European hostage will be freed... it is a matter of time but there will be a release," said one source. Hopes for the release of one of the 15 Western hostages held in Lebanon were raised over the weekend when the Iranian news agency reported from Beirut that a European captive was to be freed. Pro-Syrian security sources said the hostage to be released could be Irish teacher Brian Keenan, 39, abducted in Beirut April 11, 1986. They said the Lebanese kidnappers have contacted the Syrian army command in west Beirut Monday to arrange the release. The sources said the Syrians were making arrangements to collect the hostage and hand him over to officials of his government. In Damascus, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharran, a key player in the release of hostages in Lebanon, said Tuesday there was no fresh news on the expected release of a Western captive. Answering reporters' questions on whether he had any new information on the possible release of Keenan, Sharran said: "Not yet... no news for today."

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## British firm relieved of Jbelha contract

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipal Council Tuesday terminated a contract with a British firm to supervise the operations of the Jbelha Amusement Park. It entrusted a caretaker administrative committee to run the park pending a final evaluation of the facility's situation. The council also adopted a decision allowing owners of unlicensed buildings to settle municipal tax in instalments payable over a period ranging from 12 months and 24 months.

## Fahd confers with Algerian president

JEDDAH (AP) — King Fahd conferred Tuesday with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid who had arrived in the Saudi Arabian summer capital of Jeddah earlier in the day, Riyadh Radio reported. There were no official statements on the subjects the two leaders tackled. But Saudi Arabia and Algeria, along with Morocco, are the members of the three-man Arab panel that was mandated by the Arab League to work for establishment of peace in Lebanon. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and his Algerian counterpart Ahmad Ghazali held a separate meeting. The official Saudi Press Agency said they discussed bilateral ties and reviewed efforts being exerted to solve the Lebanese problem.

## U.S. refuses to deny or confirm Israel trucking Liti River

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. State Department has refused to confirm or deny the accuracy of reports that Israel was using large quantities of water from Lebanon's Liti River. In a written answer to a question, the State Department deputy spokesman said the department had noted reports that Israel was trucking large quantities of water from the Liti to Israel. "However, we can neither confirm or deny the accuracy of these allegations," the spokesman said.

## Powell visits Tunis

TUNIS (R) — General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, is in Tunis on the first leg of an orientation tour of North Africa and the Middle East, diplomats said Tuesday. Powell, who arrived Monday night, was due to confer with Tunisian President Zine Abidine Ben Ali and Defence Minister Abdallah Kallal before leaving for Cairo. He was also due to visit Jordan and Israel.

## 1 killed, 6 hurt in Lebanon blasts

BEIRUT (AP) — One person was killed and six were wounded, including five children, in two explosions in Beirut and South Lebanon Tuesday, police reported. A police spokesman said the children were playing soccer in an empty lot near the city's dividing green line when an anti-tank mine exploded. One of them lost his leg and the others received various wounds. In the southern town of Ghazieh, 50 kilometres from Beirut, one person was killed and another was wounded when a roadside bomb exploded. It was not clear who planted the bomb in the town or why.

## U.S. defends pact with Greece

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States on Monday sought to soothe Turkey's concern over a new military bases pact with Greece, saying the agreement was "totally consistent" with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). "Basically as regards Turkey, I would say the agreement is totally consistent, in letter and spirit, with the undertakings and commitments of the North Atlantic Treaty," U.S. State Department Deputy Spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters. "Therefore, it's obviously not directly against any party to that treaty," he said.

# Gorbachev reelected general secretary

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev won reelection Tuesday as head of the Communist Party despite eight days of criticism of his reform policies. Gorbachev had been under fire from both traditionalists and radical reformers during the congress, but opposition appeared to melt away as the delegates considered electing a new general secretary.

Despite their criticism, many conservative delegates apparently believed that only Gorbachev has the ability to hold the increasingly unpopular party together. The nearly 5,000 delegates to the 28th party congress cast paper ballots in a secret vote late Tuesday afternoon at the Grand Kremlin Palace, a short walk from the hall where the Congress is being held. The results were announced Tuesday night, with Gorbachev receiving 3,411 votes for and 1,116 against. His lone opponent, Teimuraz Avaliani, received 501 votes for, and 4,020 votes against. Seven candidates were nominated Tuesday morning to challenge the 59-year-old president and party leader. By the afternoon, all had dropped out but Avaliani, the man who led a coal strike in western Siberia a year ago. The announcement of Gorbachev's victory was greeted by loud applause from the delegates at the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses. The congress, which many expected could pose a challenge to Gorbachev's victory, ended in triumph for the Soviet leader after eight days. Delegates approved Gorbachev's proposal to reorganize the party politburo, transferring greater power to the government that Gorbachev heads. The top party job carries no fixed term of office. But the meeting changed party rules to require that the general secretary be elected by a congress, which traditionally meets every four or five years, rather than by the Central Committee, which meets several times a year. The change will make it harder for opponents to oust Gorbachev as party leader.

## G-7 summit rallies behind Soviet change

HOUSTON (R) — Leaders of the world's seven leading industrial powers Tuesday expressed strong support for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and said they would relax sanctions against China if the Beijing government improved its human rights record. "We commit ourselves to working with the Soviet Union to assist its efforts to create an open society, a pluralistic democracy and a market-oriented economy," the seven leaders said in a political communiqué read by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The Group of Seven (G-7) — the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan — acknowledged recent liberalisation moves by the Chinese government but said these were not yet sufficient to relax limits on World Bank loans imposed after last year's massacre in and around Tiananmen Square. "We agree to maintain the measures put into place at last year's summit, as modified over the course of this year," the communiqué said, referring to China. "We will keep them under review for future adjustments to respond to further positive developments in China," it added. The seven said they would explore whether the world Bank could extend its lending policy to spur Chinese economic reform, particularly to address environmental concerns. At the moment, the World Bank is allowed to lend money to China only for humanitarian projects. The communiqué left for Wednesday the question of economic assistance to the Soviet Union. (Continued on Page 2)

## OAU summit hears call for democracy

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Africa must develop its own brand of democracy before other nations impose their own forms of the system on the continent as a condition for economic aid, a speaker at an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit said Tuesday. "Africa must go back to its deep-rooted democratic tradition where all public issues were decided after the usual palaver," Adebayo Adedeji, the Economic Commission for Africa executive secretary, told the delegates attending the 26th OAU summit. "We are basically a democratic people. Let us revert squarely and in full force to our democratic tradition and by so doing unleash the latent talents of our people." Two former presidents, Jimmy Carter of the United States and Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, that

# Palestinian cause gains among Americans

AMMAN (J.T.) — A recent opinion poll conducted in the United States indicates a dramatic increase in support for the Palestinian quest for an independent state and an erosion in American support for Israel. Forty-seven per cent of the 1,084 people questioned in the New York Times/CBS News poll "say they now support giving the Palestinians a homeland in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip," according to a report in the Jerusalem Post. Two years ago, 10 per cent favoured such a state. The New York Times reported that the poll, taken last month, and recent interviews around the country "all show some erosion in Americans' regard for Israel... There is still an enduring core of support for Israel, especially when considered in relation to its Arab neighbours, but Americans no longer side strongly with Israel against the Palestinians within its borders." Asked, "Should the United States be more sympathetic to the concerns of the Palestinian minority in Israel than it is now?" 38 per cent of the 1,054 people contacted by telephone answered, "yes," 37 per cent said, "no." The same question in 1988 drew 26 per cent "yes" responses, 49 per cent "no." Asked, "Are you more in sympathy with Israel, or with Arab nations?" 40 per cent sided with Israel, 19 per cent with the Arabs. Two years ago, 30 per cent favoured Israel, 10 per cent the Arabs. Support for the Arab states did not reach double digits until 1987, according to a series of Roper polls. It hovered around 10 per cent until the latest Times/CBS survey. Backing for

back and shaking his hand. He autographed several delegates' congress registration cards before walking out of the hall, still mobbed by scores of supporters. "He was the only realistic figure. It would have been hopeless to choose any other way," one delegate said. The nomination of the stocky, white-haired Avaliani came on the eve of a one-day political strike announced by miners protesting the Communist Party's power and the government's inability to fulfill the promises it made to end last year's strike. Miners now are calling for the government to resign. Although nominations were open to the floor, supporters of the well-represented traditionalist group did not nominate their most visible politburo member, Yegor K. Ligachev. "The congress did not nominate him. That says it all," said Moscow party boss Yuri Prokoviev. (Continued on page 3)

## Arafat warns against any bid to undermine PLO

TUNIS (Petra) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Tuesday warned against any attempts to undermine his organisation from the people it represents or to overstep its authority as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. His warning came as part of a message to the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories marking 31 months of their uprising. "There will be no peace, no stability or security in the Middle East except through Palestinian security and recognition of Palestinian rights, most paramount of which are the right to self-determination and the right to establish a separate Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," Arafat said. Arafat also attacked the United States. "The U.S. administration chose to reward the new Israeli government by stopping its dialogue with the PLO and extending congressional approval of financial aid to Israel and vetoing U.N. Security Council decisions," he said. Arafat said he thought that the American administration might have acquired a "new awareness now that they knew the basis of holding a dialogue with the PLO and perhaps understood that our strategic commitment is closely connected to our concern for our national dignity and pride and our right to defend our people against the daily war waged by Israeli occupation." He called on the Palestinian people to escalate their uprising and use utmost restraint and exercise caution against "plots aimed at breaking our national unity within the occupied territories." The uprising entered its 32nd month Monday. The Palestinians living in the occupied territories marked the occasion with a massive general strike.

Africa would remain impoverished unless its leaders ended wars and resolved economic woes. Carter, speaking Tuesday on the second day of the three-day summit, said he shared Africans' concerns that aid and investment was being diverted from the rich nations to Eastern Europe and Latin America and not Africa. Carter is the head of Global 2000, a non-project organisation that sponsors health programme and development projects in Third World countries. On Monday, leaders of the six West African nations Monday signed an unprecedented peace pact to end conflicts in their region. The pact committed Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda to seek peaceful means to end regional conflicts.

As for foreign aid, 61 per cent replied that present levels should be sustained or increased. Seventy-two per cent favoured maintaining or boosting aid levels in 1988. A pro-Israel lobbyist said that a preliminary analysis of the figures does not show erosion of support for the Jewish state. "The 20 per cent for the Arab states is admittedly a little high, but support for Israel remains" at typical levels, he said. The lobbyist also termed the 61 per cent in favour of current or higher foreign aid "normal." The 72 per cent two years ago was an upbraid. Regarding the near-majority for a Palestinian state, the source said that growing Amer-

## Crown Prince reviews dangers posed by Soviet Jewish wave

MADRID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday warned of the great dangers inherent in Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and its repercussions on Jordan and the Arab World at large. The massive wave of Soviet Jews flowing into Palestine means the transfer of Palestinians to Jordan, the Crown Prince said in an interview with the Spanish newspaper El Pais. "Jordan, which acts as a strong wall preventing Israeli expansion at the expense of Arab land, should receive enough Arab support to ensure its national security as well as that of the whole Arab Nation," the Crown Prince said. The immigration of Palestinians to Jordan in the aftermath of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war placed additional financial burdens on the Kingdom, he said. He attributed Soviet Jewish im-

migration to Palestine to socio-economic causes. "The Soviets are not enemies of the Arabs," he said. Soviet emigrants will contribute to enhancing Israel's manpower and technology, the Crown Prince said. In answer to a question on the economic situation in Jordan, Prince Hassan said the economic reform programme developed by the government in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund was proceeding slowly but firmly. The situation is getting better in terms of increased Jordanian exports, foreign currency reserves and reduced imports, he said.

Prince Hassan singled out population growth and defence as the two most important problems facing Jordan and called on the Arab countries to provide financial support for the Kingdom. The Crown Prince said the "silent majority in the Middle East rejects rightist or leftist extremism," and "the escalating extremism in the region is attributable to three spots of tension — Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the failure so far to bring about permanent peace between Iraq and Iran."

## Assad due in Cairo July 14

CAIRO (AP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad will arrive in Cairo Saturday for a two-day official visit, his first in 7 years, government officials said. He will be returning a two-day visit President Hosni Mubarak made to Damascus May 2-3 to seal the end of a bilateral rift of more than 12 years over Egypt's separate peace treaty with Israel. The official, who demanded anonymity, said Assad and Mubarak would have talks in Cairo Saturday and would travel to the Mediterranean city of Alexandria for further discussions Sunday before the Syrian leader heads home. The state-run Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported that Mubarak would travel to Saudi Arabia Wednesday for talks with King Fahd and a quick pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina. Mubarak and Assad have been key figures in efforts to heal a breach between Syria and Iraq. The government officials said the Mubarak-Assad talks would deal with the stalled Middle East peace process and inter-Arab relations, including the quarrels between Syria on one hand and Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the other. During his visit to Damascus, Mubarak said he would like to end the Syrian-Iraqi feud. Assad boycotted an Arab summit in Iraq's capital Baghdad last May despite efforts by Mubarak and Saudi Arabian leaders to persuade him to attend. The next Arab summit is due in November in Cairo, and Egyptian officials said they expected both Assad and Saddam to participate. They said Mubarak would try to clear the atmosphere between Iraq and Syria before then.

## Badran urges closer cooperation to tackle unemployment problem

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Tuesday the unemployment in Jordan was "partly behavioural" and called for increased cooperation between the Ministry of Labour and employers. Speaking at a meeting with Minister of Labour Qaseem Obaidat and senior ministry officials, Badran stressed the need for finding jobs to the unemployed and called on every employer to provide at least one job opportunity for an unemployed Jordanian. Badran spoke highly of the Jordanian labour force, noting that they receive the full appreciation of employers abroad due to their distinguished performance and good conduct. He pointed out that job opportunities abroad for Jordanians had become very limited due to various reasons, including the world economic recession, a fall in the oil prices and the completion of infrastructure projects in such countries as well as the availability of indigenous skilled labour force. The prime minister called for speeding up work on the new labour law, "which should meet the new developments in the country and take into consideration the increased supply of labour force, and the increased numbers of industries and the growth in the production sector." The new law should also specify the rights of the various parties and define their duties clearly and fairly and respond to the social developments which Jordan has witnessed over the last two decades, he said. Badran was briefed on the scale of the unemployment problem in Jordan by the labour minister, who said statistics suggest that number of jobless in the Kingdom is 50,000 — 15 per cent of the total work force. However, he noted, there are 40,000 non-Jordanians working legally in Jordan as well as some 150,000 illegal workers. The prime minister's meeting with the labour minister came ahead of the resumption of a debate on unemployment in Jordan by the Lower House of Parliament. The House meets Wednesday evening to continue its discussions on the issue which it began late last month.

## 51 Albanian refugees enjoy freedom, others wait

VIENNA (Agencies) — Fifty-one Albanian refugees enjoyed their first day of freedom in Prague Tuesday as up to 6,000 others waited at embassies in Tirana to leave Europe's last hardline Communist state. Spokesmen for countries sheltering would-be asylum seekers in their Tirana embassies said they expected Albania to allow the refugees to leave later this week. In Albania, the official media attacked the refugees, who stormed into foreign missions last week to flee their country. The official news agency ATA, monitored in Vienna, said President Ramiz Alia received scores of letters and telegrams from citizens and collectives expressing "their profound indignation" at those who seek to cause troubles in the peaceful life of our country. The 51 Albanians who arrived in Prague Tuesday were allowed to leave after protracted negotiations between Albania and the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry. In Budapest, the Hungarian Foreign Ministry said the 6,000 asylum-seekers still held up in the embassies were expected to quit Albania in a mass evacuation. Ministry spokesman Ferenc Pokar said technical details of an evacuation by air, sea, train, or road were being discussed by the embassies and United Nations special envoy Staffan de Mistura, who is in Tirana. "It is likely (to be) in the form of unified procedure," said Pokar. He declined to say when the refugees would leave. A West German Foreign Ministry spokesman said the 3,000 Albanians who have sought refuge in Bonn's mission in Tirana were unlikely to be able to leave before Thursday. All the refugees should be able to leave by the weekend, he said. Albania's Communist leadership, trying to improve its international relations after decades of isolation, also drew renewed criticism from the 12-nation European Community (EC). At a meeting in Vienna of delegates from the 35 nations that signed the 1975 Helsinki accords, the EC expressed "regret and deep concern" at the recent events in Tirana. Some Albanian asylum-seekers, some dodging police bullets, began taking refuge in the foreign embassies in Tirana June 28. Albanian authorities agreed Saturday to permit all of them to leave the country under foreign supervision. The European trading bloc called on Albania to institute reforms that would establish a pluralist democracy and guarantee human rights and freedoms. Despite the criticism, Albania was granted observer status Tuesday at the meeting to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, a group that grew from the Helsinki accords. But U.S. chief delegate John Maresca said the Albanian government now would have the responsibility of living up to the Helsinki provisions on human rights and other democratic commitments.



## Kuwait, Iran to build trust, cooperation

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait and Iran, in their first high-level meeting since the 1979 revolution in Tehran, have vowed to build up trust and cooperation among countries in the Gulf two years after a ceasefire halted the Iran-Iraq war.

Reflecting a substantial easing of tensions between Iran and the Arab Gulf states, a Kuwaiti official said Tuesday that Foreign Ministers Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran and Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait had pledged to develop bilateral ties on the basis of mutual respect and good neighbourliness.

"This will create the best conditions to build up trust and cooperation between all countries of the region," the official said, according to the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

Velayati, on the first visit by an Iranian foreign minister to Kuwait since the Shah was deposed 11 years ago, arrived Monday for a two-day stay that diplomats saw as another major step towards stabilising the political climate of the Gulf.

In Geneva earlier this month Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart, Tariq Aziz, held their first face-to-face meeting as part of United Nations efforts to reach a peace treaty between the two countries.

Velayati began his visit by saying that Iran, slowly emerging from more than a decade of virtual international isolation, attached great importance to its relations with the six member-nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The GCC groups Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were Iraq's main financial backers in the eight-year war, and

Baghdad also got substantial amounts of aid from Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE.

Following his talks Monday with the Kuwaiti foreign minister, Velayati Tuesday handed the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, a message from Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Velayati met Prime Minister and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah earlier Tuesday.

KUNA, which reported the two meetings, did not disclose the contents of Rafsanjani's message or say what the two men discussed with Velayati, whose visit underlined a steady improvement in Kuwaiti-Iranian relations.

During the war Kuwait, nestled at the northern end of the Gulf within range of Iraqi and Iranian guns, at times appeared on the verge of being dragged into the conflict.

Kuwait, whose oil wealth rates it among the world's richest nations, was hit by a series of bomb attacks in the 1980s which were blamed on pro-Iranian militants. It was also the target of several Iranian missile attacks.

Kuwait sought naval protection from the United States, Iran's arch-enemy, after attacks on its oil tankers that were attributed to Iran.

The August 1988 ceasefire put Iran and Kuwait on the path of rapprochement. Iran's first ambassador since the war took up his post in Kuwait several months ago and Kuwait, whose 1.8 million population includes a large Iranian community, promptly sent aid to victims of last month's devastating earthquake in Iran.

The emir, out of respect and sympathy for the estimated 40,000 killed by the quake, cancelled his customary audience

during last week's 'Eid Al Adha.

Sheikh Jaber, speaking before the inaugural session of a revived parliament Monday, said Kuwait viewed with optimism what he called the new phase of relations between Iraq and Iran.

An Iranian newspaper which is close to Rafsanjani hailed Velayati's visit as a turning point in regional developments.

"Cooperation, coordination and solidarity among regional countries can definitely enhance the position of Muslim nations vis-a-vis a united Europe and this ever-changing world," the English-language Tehran Times said.

A senior Kuwaiti official said Velayati and Sheikh Sabah also discussed the issue of Kuwaiti fishing boats seized by the Iranians.

He gave no details, but Kuwaiti islands are only about 30 kilometres away from Iran, and fishing vessels have often strayed, ending up in Iranian hands.

While the accent in Velayati's talks was on bilateral ties, diplomatic sources said Kuwait and other GCC countries also are keen to contain a persisting rift between Tehran and Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia ruptured its ties with Iran in April 1988, accusing the Iranian leaders of terrorism during the annual pilgrimage at Mecca.

With Iran's recent earthquake disaster, Saudi Arabia however led a massive airlift of relief supplies to Tehran for the victims, raising GCC hopes of a reconciliation between Tehran and Riyadh.

Relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran recently plummeted again when 1,426 pilgrims were killed in a stampede inside a pedestrian tunnel in Mecca.



**ARGUMENT AGAINST SYMPATHY:** An orthodox Jewish man argues with a group of Israeli demonstrators protesting against the number of Palestinian youths jailed in Jerusalem. The group says that 1,309 Palestinian youths are in overcrowded jails and 153 have been killed since the start of the Intifada in December 1987.

## Saddam Hussein says Iraqis will elect president this year

PARIS (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said on French Television Monday that he hoped to hold presidential elections later this year, giving the country, for the first time in its long history, a freely elected leader.

Hussein, in an interview with TFI, denied Iraq had nuclear weapons, but said his country had arms capable of "burning half of Israel" should the Jewish state carry out another attack.

In the interview, conducted Sunday night in Baghdad and shown Monday on the evening news here, Hussein said he intended to put his presidency on the line with free elections.

"This year, if God wills it, there will be presidential elections, and there will be for the first time in the history of Iraq, ancient and modern, a president elected in a free and democratic manner," Hussein said.

The Iraqi president has in the past talked of holding free elections, but "without mentioning a

time frame.

"It is the people who will decide whom to elect, Saddam Hussein or another," the Iraqi leader said. "He who will be chosen by the people will be the best. We believe in the people's choice."

He said he would allow the Western media to cover the elections "so they see for themselves whether they are carried out democratically."

Asked about Iraq's chemical weapons capability and reports that it is building a "super gun," the Iraqi leader said: "It is not a crime, if one considers what is happening in the rest of the world, that a state possesses arms to defend itself. We do exactly what France does to assure its own defence... but the arms we possess are not as efficient as those France has."

Hussein denied reports Iraq was developing a nuclear weapon, but added: "If any Western state wanted to help us

build a nuclear arm to compensate for Israel's, we see no inconvenience."

He said Iraq had information Israel was laying the groundwork for another attack. "... If Israel were to attack Iraq or threatened to use the nuclear power it possesses against Iraq, we would have arms capable of burning half of Israel," Hussein said.

Israel, which denies possessing nuclear weapons, attacked an Iraqi nuclear reactor under construction in 1981. Iraq has in the past threatened to use chemical weapons against Israel.

Asked if he aimed to "wipe Israel off the map," he said: "We never said that. What we said was that if Israel attacked Iraq, or threatened it with its nuclear weaponry, Iraq had the capacity to scorch half of Israel."

France has been a major arms supplier to Baghdad. But Hussein confirmed French government statements that France was not currently delivering arms to Iraq.

## \$3.1b U.S.-Saudi tank deal signed

WASHINGTON (R) — Saudi Arabia has signed a \$3.1 billion deal to buy 315 M-1A2 tanks and support equipment from General Dynamics Corp., the U.S. Defence Department said Monday.

The deal, which was approved by the U.S. Congress last year but has been awaiting a final Saudi go-ahead, was signed Sunday. It will provide a major financial boost for the big U.S. defence firm.

General Dynamics said it was very pleased by the agreement, under which it would deliver the tanks to the Saudis between 1993 and 1995.

The U.S. army decided last year not to buy any more M-1 tanks, and officials at General Dynamics said Monday the Saudi deal would allow the firm to keep open at least one of its two plants — the one at Lima, Ohio — and perhaps its second plant at Warren, Michigan.

The Bush administration said when it asked Congress to allow the deal last autumn that the tanks would bolster Saudi defences against potential threats as well as reinforcing its trust and confidence in Washington's support of Arab states.

The United States gave concessions to Israel at the time and avoided a bruising battle with the powerful pro-Israel lobby on

Capitol Hill. The proposal cleared Congress without formal objection.

"On July 8, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia agreed to the purchase of 315 M-1A2 Abrams tanks from the United States," the Defence Department said Monday in a brief news release.

"With support equipment, spare parts, training, facilities construction and munitions, the value of the sale will total over three billion dollars."

Defence industry officials said earlier that an agreement by the Saudis to go ahead with the tank deal could provide a boost to General Dynamics towards other foreign tank deals.

Those officials said the firm was also hoping to convince Britain to buy M-1A2s instead of either British, French or West German tanks.

In addition to the tank deal, the Bush administration announced plans last month for another \$1 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia, including armoured vehicles, anti-tank missiles and upgrading of airborne radar-warning planes.

Congress has not vetoed that deal to date after the Defence Department emphasised that the equipment was mainly of a defensive nature and would not threaten Israel.

## S. Arabia condemns Iranian 'sick voices'

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia denounced "sick voices" in Iran Monday for challenging its account of a stampede in a tunnel near Mecca in which more than 1,426 pilgrims were killed.

The Saudi Press Agency, mounted in Nicosia, quoted an official source as saying: "Sick voices in Iran launched through the information media and rulers... a misleading campaign of lies on the tunnel incident."

Saudi Arabia has blamed last week's disaster on panic by pilgrims and their failure to follow instructions. It said the deaths of 1,426 people was an act of God.

In Iran, Parliamentary Speaker Mehdi Karubi accused the Saudi Arabians of incompetence, while

the English-language newspaper Kayhan International said the disaster was not an accident.

Kayhan claimed the stampede during the annual pilgrimage started after Saudi security forces fired on a group of pilgrims.

The Saudi official recalled past violence in which he said Iranians were involved, including anti-American riots during the 1987 pilgrimage in which at least 400 people, mostly Iranians, were killed.

He also cited bombings near Mecca last year in which a Pakistani pilgrim was killed and 16 people were wounded. Saudi Arabia subsequently beheaded 16 Kuwaitis, including 10 of Iranian origin, after finding them guilty

## U.N. chief fails to set up Morocco-Polisario talks

GENEVA (Agencies) — A five-day U.N. effort to make Morocco and the Polisario Front guerrillas bargain directly about the future of the disputed Western Sahara region has ended in failure.

U.N. Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar said last week he was pressing for the first direct talks between the two sides. However, Morocco had served word before its delegation left for Geneva that Rabat did not plan face-to-face meetings.

An expert mission to the former Spanish colony and neighbouring countries, originally hoped to leave shortly, likely will be delayed until the end of July, U.N. spokeswoman Nadia Younis said Monday.

The mission would make recommendations on the size of a future U.N. peacekeeping force, which the U.N. Security Council endorsed last month.

A U.N. statement issued after meetings with officials from both sides cited new progress "towards a just and honourable settlement" of the dispute through a referendum.

But U.N. officials declined to elaborate, and both delegations refused to answer press queries.

Topics in the talks included a code of conduct during the referendum campaign, an extension

of the current truce and possibilities of a direct dialogue under U.N. auspices, the statement said.

Morocco claims the Western Sahara, which it annexed after Spanish colonial administration ended in 1975, and has since fought Polisario, which is seeking independence.

Both sides agreed in August 1988 to negotiate over a draft settlement providing for a U.N.-supervised ceasefire, troop withdrawal and referendum to allow people in the phosphate-rich area to choose between independence and integration with Morocco.

Perez de Cuellar apparently hoped to build on his success in arranging the first direct Iran-Iraq peace talks last Tuesday, which were aimed at reviving the stalled negotiations.

Perez de Cuellar cancelled a trip to Addis Ababa, where he was due to attend the opening Monday of an annual African summit, in the hope of hosting the first direct talks between the two sides since January 1989.

But diplomats said Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali resisted strong pressure from the U.N. chief who had suggested that time had come for direct talks.

Spokeswoman Younis said the talks had focused on a code of

conduct to be observed during political campaigning ahead of a self-determination referendum to be held in the territory.

Perez de Cuellar prepared a peace plan that provides for a ceasefire and a referendum for the mostly desert territory's population to choose between integration into Morocco or independence.

Perez de Cuellar also asked the two sides not to resume military operations.

The spokeswoman gave no clue as to whether the next round of talks would see Moroccan and Polisario officials sit in the same room with U.N. officials.

"Further progress was recorded towards a just and honourable settlement of the Western Sahara question, through a credible referendum," she said.

The two sides have met only once, when King Hassan received Polisario leaders in January 1989 in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh. But he has shunned further contacts.

Both sides have accepted the idea of a self-determination vote supervised by the United Nations but still disagree on the size of the military and administrative presence Morocco should be allowed to leave behind during campaigning and voting.

## Shahal wants to lead Israeli Labour

TEL AVIV (R) — Former Energy Minister Moshe Shahal has declared his candidacy to lead Israel's troubled Labour Party, saying he would seek agreement with the United States on peace with Palestinians.

Shahal, an Iraqi-born lawyer and protégé of party leader Shimon Peres, said he represented the younger generation which was ready to change the party's course.

But at 56, Shahal lacks the popularity of Peres, 66, and former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, 68, who recently challenged Peres for the party leadership.

"The Labour Party must sign a new strategic document between us and the United States that will determine three 'noes' — no returning to 1967 borders, no division of Jerusalem... and no to the creation of a Palestinian state between us and Jordan," Shahal told reporters.

The United States is Israel's guardian ally, supplying \$3 billion a year in military and economic aid. Shahal said an agreement on the final aims of negotiations

would give Israel confidence to begin peace talks.

Shahal's stance reflects Labour's traditional position in favour of trading some of the occupied territories in return for peace. Labour opposes a Palestinian state and maintains Israel must control "strategic areas" in the West Bank for "security's sake."

He said Peres and Rabin bore joint responsibility for the party's failure to form a government committed to peace talks with Palestinians.

Labour brought down its coalition with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the rival Likud party in March but fell short of winning the 61 votes needed to form its own coalition.

Labour and Likud split over the participation of 150,000 Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem in peace efforts. Likud said their participation would call into question the "status" of Jerusalem as Israel's "undivided, eternal capital."

But Labour said they should be represented along with an expelled Palestinian in the U.S.-proposed peace talks in Cairo.

## G-7 summit

(Continued from page 1)

Union which has dominated this 16th annual economic summit of the Group of Seven.

The aid issue is expected to be addressed in an economic communiqué to be released Wednesday. The leaders are expected to agree to have a study done on the Soviet economy to determine its needs, and allow each country to help Gorbachev in its own way.

The statement clearly represented a compromise. U.S. President George Bush and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl have been at odds on whether to offer immediate aid to help Gorbachev's struggling economy.

The political communiqué said democratic and economic reforms in the Soviet Union will put Moscow "in a position to fulfil its responsibilities in the community of nations."

It added: "We welcome the intention of the Soviet Union to increasingly democratise its political system and also Soviet moves to reform the economy of the country according to market-oriented principles."

The communiqué also demanded the release of all hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian factions, saying they had suffered enough.

## Israel detains thousands of Palestinians — Amnesty

LONDON (Agencies) — Thousands of Palestinians were imprisoned for political reasons in Israel and the occupied territories during 1989, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

In Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, more than 260 unarmed Palestinian civilians were shot dead by Israeli forces, many in a pattern suggesting the government was actively encouraging extrajudicial executions, Amnesty said in its annual report.

Judicial executions increased during the year in Israel, where at least 1,000 people were hanged under a new law imposing the death penalty as mandatory for drug possession, the report said.

"Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Yemen saw dramatic increases in the number of death sentences and executions, by hanging, beheading and stoning," Amnesty said.

Widespread torture continued in most Middle East countries, often used indiscriminately during interrogation or as a punishment, the report added.

In general, Amnesty said, thousands of people were imprisoned in the Middle East during

1989 by governments repressing political opponents and religious or ethnic groups.

The London-based human rights group said that thousands of political prisoners were imprisoned in Iraq, many of them members of Kurdish opposition groups.

It also said Egypt had detained more than 8,000 alleged supporters of Islamic opposition groups for periods of one to three months without charges, some repeatedly.

Government forces in Lebanon arbitrarily arrested hundreds of suspected political opponents, while in Syria thousands of political opponents remained in detention under emergency laws, Amnesty said.

It added that Shi'ite Muslim leaders and their followers were detained in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain, often without charge or trial, for alleged political opposition.

Hundreds of people were also arrested in Saudi Arabia during the holy pilgrimage following bomb attacks in Mecca, Amnesty said, and 16 Kuwaitis were executed in Saudi Arabia in connection with the attacks.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
15:55	Children's programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:45	Cairo news message
18:50	Local programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:20	Arabic programme
23:00	News in Arabic
23:40	Play
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:10	Panique six canabes
19:00	News in French
19:15	French varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	You Rang Me Lord
21:10	Children of Open Road
22:00	News in English
22:20	Summer Lesson
PRAYER TIMES	
04:00	Fajr
05:33	(Sunnah) Dhuha
12:41	Dhuhr
16:22	'Asr
19:09	Maghreb
21:22	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlah, Tel. 810740	
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrace Church Tel. 623666	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 711331	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712561	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 711751	
Assumption International Church Tel. 655326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811235	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./max. temp.	19 / 32

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Tariq Qab'in	623029
Dr. Issa Haddad	870707
Dr. Asjad Nawras	781806
Dr. Suhail Tamous	889903
Firas Pharmacy	661912
Pedrows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nisrokh pharmacy	626772
Al Salem pharmacy	626730
Yasoub pharmacy	644943
Shumaima pharmacy	637660
IBED:	
Dr. Ali Al Omeri	(—)
Al Shams' pharmacy	(985236)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Jihad Muelek	(—)
Khalifah pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896300
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	603800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdell Telephone Repairs	661101
Radio Jordan	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53490

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	818613/52
Khalid Matar, J. Amn.	642816
Al-Jah Matar, J. Amn.	624412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mahmud, J. Amn.	636140
Palestine, Shamsi	664171/4
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	843845
Al-Musayyir Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdell	666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdell	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajirin	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Amn.	775111/26
Army, Maris	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Im Sam Hospital	(09)96752
IBED:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)27275
Bo Al Nafces Hospital	(02)27100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal	

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## WFP to provide \$1.8 m emergency assistance

AMMAN (J.T.) — Upon recommendation by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, James Ingram, the programme will provide emergency food assistance to the drought-affected small farmers and livestock breeders in the eastern and southern districts of the Kingdom, at a total cost of more than \$1.8 million.

Jordan's request for such assistance was one of the subjects discussed by the Minister of Agriculture Sulaiman Arabiyat and Ingram during the latter's visit to Jordan last month.

The emergency assistance will comprise the distribution of 4,255 tonnes of wheat flour, 215 tonnes of vegetable oil and 430 tonnes of

pulses to 17,500 farm families at an average of 6 members per family and for a period of 135 days from the date of food shipments arrive to Jordan in November.

To determine the number of small farmers and livestock owners in the governorates of Ma'an, Karak and Tafila, who were most seriously affected by the drought, a field assessment was carried out in May jointly by the office of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Amman and the Ministry of Agriculture, and with the participation of the agricultural directorates at these governorates.

Two thousand and four hundred farmers and 2,456 livestock

owners in Ma'an Governorate, 6,250 farmers and 1,842 livestock owners in Karak Governorate and 3,255 farmers and 1,260 livestock owners in Tafila Governorate who own a maximum of 100 dunams of arable land and 100 heads of live-stock will be benefiting from the assistance.

The emergency food assistance represents partial compensation for the losses inflicted on the small farmers and their cereal crops and small livestock owners on their grazing land as a result of the drought that occurred during the 1989/90 agricultural season.

With this emergency assistance, the total WFP aid to Jordan during the years 1990/95 will amount to almost \$35 million.

## Jerash Festival opens today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ancient Greco-Roman city of Jerash will come to life once again Wednesday with the official opening of the ninth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts at a ceremony to be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The Queen is expected to light the torch, formally declaring the 17-day festival open for the public and for activities by folk troupes from eight foreign and four Arab countries.

Several folk troupes from Jordan will participate in this year's activities along with poets from many Arab states who will have poetry recitals almost daily.

"Although the Jerash festival 1990 is scaled down in terms of international participation this year, the event will be another landmark in Jordan's efforts to present its artistic and cultural

standards and traditions to the outside world," according to Akram Masarweh, director-general of the festival's organising committee.

Entry charges and prices of tickets for the various performances at the theatres and open-air sites are in the same range as last year: JD 1 for entry and tickets ranging from JD 1 to JD 6 per event.

Queen Noor inaugurated the first festival in 1981 when a special festival committee was created to supervise the events.

On Monday, the Queen toured the various sites of the Jerash festival, inspecting last minute preparations for the opening day.

The Queen was accompanied on her tour by Masarweh and committee members as well as the Jerash district governor, the mayor and other officials.

## ACC ministers present outline of discussions on environment

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Tuesday ministers responsible for the protection of the environment in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries.

At the meeting, which was attended by ACC Secretary-General Hilmi Nammar, the ministers presented an outline of the deliberations they opened Tuesday to discuss coordination among the ACC member countries in local government affairs and means of protecting the environment.

At their two-day meeting the

ministers from Iraq, Yemen, Egypt and Jordan will study a draft agreement on cooperation in protecting the environment and an executive programme for the implementation of an ACC agreement on local government.

At the outset of the session the ministers delivered speeches expressing their countries' keenness on following up measures to ensure protection for the environment.

The agreement on environmental affairs is designed to launch close cooperation among the four states to unify their position regionally and internationally in matters related to the

environment. It also aims at coordinating ACC strategies in disposing of dangerous waste and at preparing a contingency plan to deal with environmental disasters.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughni said that the ministers will discuss ways of promoting ACC cooperation in local government fields in the light of the agreement which also calls for stepping up an exchange of expertise and information and organising training courses for municipal staff and twinning of Arab cities.

## Faqir satisfied with pilgrimage despite 'certain shortcomings'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Faqir Tuesday confirmed that only four Jordanian pilgrims had died in the stampede near Mecca on the Eid Al Adha day on July 2, and that 14 other pilgrims from Jordan and the occupied Arab territories died of old age and disease.

Addressing a press conference following his return from Mecca, the minister said that two elderly pilgrims are still receiving treatment at Saudi hospitals and that 46 pilgrims, including 18 from the Gaza Strip, did not report to the Jordanian mission in Mecca and are still unaccounted for.

Faqir said that the 46 could have delayed their return to Jordan in order to search for employment in Saudi Arabia, but their passports and their return bus tickets have been handed over to the Jordanian consulate in Jeddah to make arrangements for their travel.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sunday said that four pilgrims were killed in the stampede inside a tunnel near Mecca and named those who died of natural causes.

The minister announced at the press conference that several officials at the national agency responsible for pilgrimage will be referred to court for trial for their failure to carry out their duties and responsibilities during the pilgrimage season especially in Mecca.

He said that some of those officials failed taking proper action regarding travel facilities and providing the required services.

The minister accused the agency's board of directors of premeditating to make the pilgrimage season a failure for Jordan, and said that the ministry had

proof as those responsible for the failures have confessed.

"The ministry is going to take administrative measures against those shirking responsibility or failing in their duty," the minister said.

"The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has made arrangements for every 10 pilgrims to be put up in a large room, thus providing better accommodation facilities than those offered to pilgrims from other countries who had to crowd at the rate of 15 pilgrims to a room," Faqir pointed out.

He said that each pilgrim paid this year JD 45, less than last year's charges, and that the pilgrimage season was successful on the whole despite certain shortcomings.

Faqir thanked the Saudi Arabian government for the assistance and facilities offered to the pilgrims.

## Ambiguity over Petra Bank's fate stirs unrest among its employees

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amid reports that the financially troubled Petra Bank is about to be liquidated to make way for another banking institution of a different nature, the association representing its 700 employees has vowed to resist any changes that would result in loss of jobs.

"While we do not exactly know what is going to happen to Petra Bank, we do know that we will not allow any of its employees to lose his or her job," said Haider Rashid, president of the Association of Banking and Insurance Employees in Jordan. "One of the main elements in an agreement we signed (with the management committee of Petra Bank) earlier this year is a stipulation that the employees of the bank will not lose their jobs no matter what happens to the bank."

Rashid was referring to an accord that ended a week-long "protest action" by Petra Bank employees in April. Pointing out that the agreement was endorsed by the Ministry of Labour, he said, "the government also has an equal responsibility to ensure that the terms of the accord are not violated."

The association headed by Rashid is an umbrella organisation for all banking and insurance sector employees

with an estimated membership strength of about 6,000. According to Rashid, about 80 per cent of Petra Bank's 700 employees are formal members and "95 per cent are very close to the association."

Petra Bank employees said reports in the local press, suggesting that they might be given "compensation" instead of employment guarantees under an envisaged plan to liquidate the bank, had stirred unrest in several branches Tuesday. "We are totally in the dark about our fate," said a woman employee who asked not to be identified. "Reports are now talking about 'termination compensation' instead of guaranteed continued employment, and this possibility has upset many of us."

Against the thick veil of secrecy drawn by the management committee and other authorities over whatever fate awaits the bank, all kinds of speculation have hit the local scene, and "this has led to further complicating the situation," according to an economist.

Rashid, an officer of the Jordan National Bank, told the Jordan Times Tuesday the association was seeking a meeting with the minister of labour to reaffirm its position and clarify the ambiguity surrounding the fate of Petra Bank. "We are also planning for a general meeting for

all Petra Bank employees to discuss the situation and draw up a strategy if they are threatened with loss of job," he said. "However, we believe that the government has yet to take a final decision on the bank's future. In the meantime, we believe that we have a right to know what is going on."

"As a trade union, it is also our duty to ensure that none of our members loses his or her job," he said. "We will adopt whatever action is agreed upon to achieve this end."

According to informed sources, the government is studying several proposals forwarded to it by the management committee of the bank which has been steadily losing money even after the government took it over in August last year. At least two sources said the government was in favour of a proposal calling for the liquidation of the bank and creation of another entity in its place which will retain most of the present employees.

A usually reliable source said last month that the government was on the verge of announcing its decision. But no announcement was made during the month, leading to speculation that the relevant government agencies, which were supposed to recommend feasible action to the Council of Ministers, were either having second thoughts or the

government was studying their recommendations. A senior official said late last month that no issue related to Petra Bank had been placed before the Cabinet yet.

Unconfirmed reports have said that the new entity will be oriented as an "export promotion bank" — one of the ideas under consideration by the Ministry of Industry and Trade in its efforts to increase Jordan's exports. Few details have emerged of the plan, which, according to sources, focuses on an entity which can provide export credits and encourage foreign investments.

A report which appeared in the local press Tuesday said all deposits of the public with Petra Bank would be transferred to another unnamed bank and a new company will be set up to handle issues related to Petra Bank's debts. The report, which attributed the information to unidentified "well-informed sources," said the bank's creditors as well as debtors would be linked to the new company, "which will operate under Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) supervision."

No official or independent confirmation of the report was immediately available but a source close to the bank said the report was "not fully accurate," and declined to elaborate. "One thing is certain," said a banking source. "A merger of Petra Bank with the Jordan

Gulf Bank (as originally planned in August last year) is no longer in the cards."

According to Tuesday's report in the press, the CBJ has already pumped in about JD 200 million to help Petra Bank since its take-over in August.

CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi has said that the government had guaranteed that no depositor with Petra Bank would lose anything. The total amount of public deposits with Petra Bank is estimated at around JD 130 million.

The source quoted in Tuesday's press report denied suggestions that an unnamed banking institution from the Gulf may "buy" Petra Bank. But a source contacted by the Jordan Times said the potential buyer was "very much interested."

According to banking circles, the total debts of Petra Bank, excluding public deposits, are in the region of JD 270 million to JD 280 million, and the source told the Jordan Times that the "potential buyer" was interested in the bank minus its debts. The potential buyer, according to the source, "prefers to leave the problem of debts to the CBJ and other concerned authorities after taking into consideration the debts while determining the purchase value of the bank."

The source declined to give any suggested "purchase value" for the bank. Asked if he thought Ligachev's political career was over, Prokofiev replied, "Yes, I think so."

Prokofiev told reporters that Vladimir Ivashko, president of the Ukraine, the Soviet Union's second largest republic and a key agricultural and energy-producing region, was the favourite for the new post of Gorbachev's deputy.

The number two man is expected to play a greater role in running the party because Gorbachev also is the country's president. Selection of Ivashko also could be a bid to nip separatist currents in the Ukraine, and tie it more closely to Moscow.

Gorbachev acknowledged that his attention has been divided between the Soviet presidency and the party leadership, but that he hoped a new party structure would settle the problem.

He warned traditionalists at the opening of Tuesday's session they could not continue ruling their territory like feudal lords.

## Narcotics bureau warns Arabs of drugs spread

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Arab Bureau for Narcotics Tuesday warned the Arab countries to take extra precautions to prevent heroin from being shifted to their regions from America.

The bureau chief, Brigadier Hashem Al Qaisi, told a meeting of officials in charge of combating drug trafficking in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries that recent heroin seizures point to the fact that smugglers from Latin America are planning to shift their illicit trade to the Arab area. "This calls for extra alertness and closer cooperation among the Arab states in thwarting the traffickers' plans," Qaisi said.

Opening the two-day meeting was Brigadier Izzeddin Zaza, director of the Public Security

## Indian envoy arrives today with message from Singh

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior Indian official is expected to arrive here Wednesday carrying a message from Prime Minister V.P. Singh to His Majesty King Hussein, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

They said the message, carried by Upper House Deputy Speaker Nejma Hebtullah, deals with bilateral relations as well as the dispute between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir Valley.

Although fears of a war between India and Pakistan have receded after both sides redeployed their border forces, New Delhi and Islamabad are pursuing diplomatic offensives aimed at securing international support for their respective positions in the conflict.

During her visit to Jordan, Hebtullah, a member of the opposition Congress (I) Party of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, will also hold talks with Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and Lower House Speaker Suleiman Arar, according to the sources. Hebtullah leaves Amman Friday.

The Indian politician's visit to Jordan coincides with a tour of Arab states by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto aimed at gaining backing for Islamabad's stand in the Kashmir dispute prior to a meeting of Islamic foreign ministers in Cairo later this month. Bhutto, who was in Baghdad Tuesday holding talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, is scheduled to visit Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

## Thousands of Iraqi tourists visit Jordan

By Caroline Faraj

AMMAN — At least 18,000 Iraqi nationals have so far visited Jordan's archaeological and tourist sites this summer and greater numbers are expected to come to the Kingdom this year, according to Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Kabarti.

The minister told the Jordan Times that at least 10,977 Iraqis had arrived by air and nearly 1,300 others by land on a monthly basis.

The minister said that Iraqi nationals are now free to travel abroad following the lifting of restrictions imposed on them during the eight-year long Gulf conflict.

Earlier this year the minister was quoted as saying that as many as 100,000 Iraqis could be visiting the Kingdom, boosting the tourism industry in the country and

further cementing brotherly ties between Iraq and Jordan.

The Jordanian government has made available ample facilities to accommodate the influx of tourists in Jordan especially during the summer, when expatriates are flooding the country visiting relatives and families, Kabarti added.

The Jordanian government has implemented all provisions in an agreement on cooperation in tourism signed by the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) of which Jordan is a member.

He said Jordan awaited the three other ACC members: Iraq, Yemen and Egypt to implement their share in the agreement, which calls for facilities to be given to ACC nationals visiting member countries.

## National charter commission to hold plenary session Saturday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general commission in charge of drafting the national charter will hold a plenary session on Saturday to review the work of specialised sub-committees set up last month and discuss proposals that could be put forth to the committee members, according to an announcement by the commission Chairman Ahmad Obeidat.

Commission members will be fully briefed on the progress of work conducted by the five sub-committees, especially work in the field of education and culture, legal affairs, political pluralism and the general framework, sub-committee.

"Ideas by the sub-committees on economic and social life in Jordan and matters of national security will be reviewed at the meeting," Obeidat said.

The sub-committees, he added,

have been holding a series of meetings in the past week to be ready for the Saturday meeting. Obeidat described work by all the sub-committees as progressing satisfactorily, and expressed belief that a major achievement could be made by the middle of next month.

The 60-member general commission, set up last April upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein, has been entrusted with drafting a national charter to guide the democratisation process in Jordan.

At its last meeting, on June 2, the commission set up five sub-committees to help the commission's endeavours in culture and education, pluralism, economic and social fields, national security and a general framework sub-committee to embody the work of all the sub-committees.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ghababsheh opens scout camp

AJLOUN (Petra) — Youth Minister Ibrahim Ghababsheh Tuesday opened the first national scouting camp at Ajloun permanent scouting camp. Taking part in the camp are 88 scouts from various parts of the Kingdom. The 5th national scouts and guides camp was opened Tuesday at Princess Rahma Social Development Centre at Allan in Balqa governorate. Taking part in the camp are 250 scouts and girl guides from the various education departments throughout Jordan.

### Jordanian-Egyptian Committee to discuss ties

AMMAN (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Committee holds a meeting Thursday to discuss means of boosting commercial exchange and removing obstacles facing the smooth flow of merchandise between Jordan and Egypt. The Jordanian side to the meetings will be headed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary General Ibrahim Badran while the Egyptian side will be chaired by the Ministry of Economy and External Trade Under-Secretary Fakhraddin Abu Al Izz. The two sides are expected to formulate a new trade protocol, with a value of \$300 million, to replace the \$250 million former protocol. The committee's decisions and recommendations will be submitted to the Higher Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Committee during its meeting in Amman next week.

### Envoy to New Zealand named

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing the appointment of Saad Bataneh as non-resident ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to New Zealand.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-printed fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition of ceramics, sculpture and paintings by Gesteine Prisoner at Arts Art Gallery.
- Plastic art exhibition by Rudaina and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.

### FILMS

- Film entitled "Comfort and Joy" at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.
- Film entitled "Madame Sansatka" at the Philadelphia movie theatre — 9:00 p.m.

### JERASH FESTIVAL

- Concert by Kawadi singer Nabil Shu'ail at the South Theatre — 8:30 - 11:00 p.m.
- Concerts by Jordan Armed Forces Band (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.), a local folk troupe (7:00 - 8:00 p.m.) and Jordan National Troupe (8:30 - 9:30 p.m.) at the Forum.
- Arabic children's play at Artemis steps — 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.



The Private Services Development Project (PSDP) will be sponsoring a three day **Tourism Marketing Workshop** from 22-24 July 1990 at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, featuring international experts from The World Trade Institute of New York. Special attention will be given to:

**MARKETING PLANS  
TOUR OPERATORS  
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES  
TRAVEL AGENTS  
RESTAURANTS/CATERING  
HOTEL OPERATIONS**

Registration Fee: J.D. 60,000

Duration: Three Days (Luncheon Provided)  
For Information Concerning Registration Please Contact:

Tel: 688945 Fax 688947  
P.O. Box 830348 (Zahrani)



## Jordan Times

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### Economic Forum

## Monetary policy on threshold of new phase

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

THE Arab aid which started to flow into Jordan seems to herald the dawning of a new era in the country's monetary policy. The past and present era has been one of turbulence and over-preoccupation with the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar. Ironically, we struggled first to stabilise, via devaluation, our currency then we struggled to halt its headlong depreciation which almost took it to par with the U.S. dollar. During the last 12 months we struggled again to stabilise it, that is to undo what we most decidedly did.

The prospective Arab aid has two cardinal functions. The Treasury sells it to the Central Bank of Jordan in exchange for

dinars. The Treasury uses the dinars to finance its deficit and hopefully to eliminate it eventually (Function No 1). The Central Bank uses the dollars donated by Arab countries to replenish and re-build its foreign exchange reserves and re-sells them to banks to finance our imports of goods and services (Function No 2). This process of reserve re-building is what will enable the monetary policy to move to a new, and different, stage.

In the new era, the Central Bank will have its own reserves. These include foreign exchange additional to the foreign currencies deposited with it — voluntarily be certain

— Arab central banks and compulsorily by Jordanian commercial banks mainly, or wholly, as legal reserves. These "own" reserves will be available to defend the dinar and to stabilise its rate at around 670 fils to the dollar. Such defence can be accomplished without the actual use of these reserves. Suffice it for speculators and money dealers to take note of their presence to refrain from playing around with currency trading. However, with the boost given to the reserves of the Central Bank by the additional expected Arab aid, it is no exaggeration to say that the battle of stabilising the exchange rate of the dinar has been won. We can

now confidently say that the dinar will be stable in the short run and well beyond that.

In the maze of the turmoil which accompanied the fall of the dinar, the Central Bank took a host of restrictive monetary measures which were truly inconsistent with our traditionally liberal monetary policy and economic system. Now it is time to plan the dismantling of these restrictive measures. We can justifiably expect the Central Bank to start just that and to do it in the nearest future. At least, this was the solid impression I gained from a very recent conversation with Dr. Mohammad Said Nabulsi, the governor of the

Central Bank of Jordan.

The deep pre-occupation with the exchange rate affair, has been overshadowing other banking issues. Some of these issues may turn out to be sore problems. Nobody can properly tell what sort of issues and problems were seeded by the oil boom era but we know that there are some of them around. Bad debts or troubled loans constitute a very good example. They are there but the important question relates to their unknown magnitude. Overbanking is another issue; and economy in recession cannot sustain the same number of banking institutions which it sustained in a boom. The new

economic circumstances require new thinking which can be provided only by different administrative mentality and probably by new administrators. Here we start to touch the more comprehensive process of the reform of the banking system. Actually this process was initiated when Petra Bank had been merged with the Jordan Gulf Bank last year. The complications of the exchange rate issue have been braking the process. Now that this issue has subsided, the banking reform is poised for a takeoff. It could be safely said, that reforming the banking system will be the pre-occupation of the monetary policy-makers in the new era.

## Numbers vs. resources: Future is in the balance

TODAY marks World Population Day. World population has been growing steadily for many centuries, but during this century it has doubled and now stands at five billion. Jordan is at the top list of countries with the highest population growth rate. If the present rate continues, Jordan's population will reach six million by the turn of the century. Given the country's natural resources, arable land and water, the figure is very alarming. There will be great demand on education and medical services. There will be an increased demand for houses.

The main cities of the country will become overcrowded. Amman alone, at the moment housing over one million people, will jump the two million figure. And with 65 per cent of the population under 35 years of age, there will be a great demand for jobs and greater pressure on wage earners. In crowded cities, with less water for sanitation diseases associated with lack of hygiene will spread. And with increased shantytowns and rising unemployment, crime, already on the rise, will become a frightening phenomenon.

This is not a doomsday prediction. Other countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa have gone through this experience before us. Nigeria is only one example and Lagos testifies to cities that have swelled out of all proportions.

A study made by the Ministry of Social Development has concluded that poverty, estimated at the moment at 22 per cent of the population, is rampant among families with 10 or more children. It is not a secret that parents with the highest number of children are the least educated and the poorest. They can never provide their children with enough medical and other types of care or adequate education. What people need is proper education in family planning matters. If it worked in India, why shouldn't it work in Jordan? A country's strength should not be measured by its population but by the quality of those people and the quality of life they lead.

The argument that the enemy is increasing its population while we contemplate reducing ours does not hold. The Israelis will face many problems settling the new immigrants. But they are receiving mainly grown-ups who apparently are highly educated and who can take up immediate jobs and start producing.

If we cannot feed our babies with milk today, how do we expect to do it when their numbers double? Those who contend that the West is conspiring against us with its advocacy of birth control must pause and think: What is in it for the West? If we were large in numbers we are a better market and a weak adversary for the West. If we were few but educated, productive, healthy and strong, then we are a strong adversary or friend, depending on what situation the world is in. We are only more than three million at the moment, but we have many problems. If we double our number our problems will only increase not decrease. We already lack food, water, schools, hospitals, transport, etc. What we need therefore is not numbers but numbers that count. Enlightened, educated and productive people, that is what we need.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday discussed the continuing Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and called on Moscow to adopt a policy whereby its respect for the Jewish human rights would not be linked to aggression on the Arabs and disregard their rights. We have waited a long time to hear Moscow or Washington openly condemn Israel's aggressive policies, but nothing has happened yet, said the paper. Indeed, the United States and other Western nations have been escalating political and informational campaigns against Iraq because they are determined to defend Israel's soil from aggression, and nothing has been said about Israel's expansionist moves, the paper continued. Furthermore, should the Arabs fail to take a proper move in the face of the ongoing immigration process, they are openly inviting Moscow and Washington to launch a devastating war on the Middle East region, said the paper. It said that the Soviet Union and the United States bear prime responsibility for the immigration of Jews to Palestine, and "... can be considered joining the same extremist Israeli camp, encouraging the Zionists to pursue their expansionist and aggressive policies without any regard to the cause of peace, justice and stability in the region. We realise that the Arabs have not yet adopted a strong stand which rises to the level of the challenges, but it should be emphasised that this state of affairs can not be allowed to continue, and that sooner or later the world has to face a catastrophe, the paper said.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday columnist Ibrahim Sakikha strongly criticises the United States administration's policies in the Middle East especially Washington's decision to suspend its dialogue with the PLO. The writer notes that Israel, using American planes flown by Israeli, and probably American pilots, have been raiding Lebanese territory, causing destruction and killing innocent women and children. The weapons pouring onto the Lebanese villages and refugee camps are American-made; and those who paid for them are the American tax payers, continues the writer. Indeed, the United States which is a superpower and holds grave responsibility towards world peace, is sending American terrorists to help Jewish terrorists in their systematic aggression on the Arabs, while the U.S. administration continues to provide protection to Israel's atrocities through the veto at the U.N. Security Council, says the writer. Sakikha says the U.S. administration found in an attempt by patriotic Palestinians trying to return to their homeland by boat an excuse for suspending its dialogue with the PLO, but it continues to condone the criminal actions of its Israeli ally in our region.

Al Dustour daily commented Tuesday on a visit to Kuwait by the Iranian foreign minister, expressing satisfaction with the visit which, it said, reflected Tehran's intentions to open a new chapter in its relations with its Arab neighbours. The visit is a significant move by Tehran which, during the eight-year-long war, had sought to involve Kuwait as a party to the conflict which brought about untold devastation and loss of life, the paper noted. The Iranian foreign minister's visit to Kuwait which followed a face-to-face meeting with his Iraqi counterpart under U.N. auspices, can pave the way for a new positive and constructive atmosphere in the Gulf region, the paper added. But, it said, that this peaceful atmosphere which is now prevailing in the Gulf was brought about in the first place by the exchanges of good will messages between the Iraqi and Iranian leaderships which, said the paper, are now closer than ever before towards implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 designed to bring permanent peace to the region.



## 'Line them up against the wall'

By Carey Goldberg  
 Associated Press

MOSCOW — From the general who objected to giving away Eastern Europe to the woman who denounced Gorbachev for corrupting youth, Russian communists have displayed a conservative bent that spells trouble for Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

The criticism of Gorbachev and the party's ruling Politburo — including calls for the entire leadership to resign — reached such a crescendo at a party conference that Gorbachev remarked:

"All that's left is for one of the speakers to say, 'line them up against the wall.'"

There were calls for discipline and party purges at the five-day meeting of communists in the biggest Soviet party. It was considered a dress rehearsal for the key national party congress that opens in a week.

It was a forceful but worried Gorbachev who took centre stage at the gathering's end Saturday to try to get the production running as he wanted, albeit at the 11th hour.

Gorbachev told the 2,700 delegates, who will make up the majority at the national congress.

conservative member of the Politburo and, according to one source, a contender against Gorbachev for the party's top post at the July 2 congress.

Ligachev complained that the party had been left out of several major recent decisions, including the government's unpopular proposal for a gradual transition to a market economy.

He also warned of "the growing work of anti-socialist forces to weaken, and ultimately destroy, the Communist party from within," by furthering "revisionist tendencies" that allow private property, intra-party factions and other ideological sacrilege.

Ligachev's complaints touched on the essence of Gorbachev's reforms, and revealed one of the president's most controversial plans as party chief — to transfer some of the party's power to the government.

Gorbachev is trying to move the country away from ideology and toward a whatever-works philosophy.

But why should the Communist party support a man intent on giving away its power, when an alternative candidate pledges to struggle for keeping the party strong?

"The growing work of anti-socialist forces, to weaken, and ultimately destroy, the Communist Party from within by furthering revisionist tendencies that allow private property, intra-party factions and other ideological sacrilege."

that they would have to accept that "the party must become a new party." Otherwise, he said, "it will end up on the sidelines of history."

But the delegates showed they were reluctant to accept his innovations in everything from the military and foreign policy to the economy and culture.

Col. Gen. Albert Makashov complained that in Eastern Europe, "the Soviet army is being driven out without a battle from the countries that our fathers freed from fascism."

Delegate Olga Akimkina warned "the theory of socialism is being distorted," and that the party would lose its youth to the new permissiveness.

"Do we really think that if more pornography and sex are shown, then young people will become more patriotic and goal-oriented?" she asked.

One questioner warned that Gorbachev's reforms had dangerously weakened the army. Another complained that Soviet president was too tolerant of U.S. pressure to allow Lithuania to secede.

Perhaps the most telling comments came from Yegor K. Ligachev, known as the most

Perhaps partly out of displeasure with his proposed changes in the party's role, 38 per cent of the electors in one Moscow district voted against Gorbachev's selection as a congress delegate.

The delegates proved their preference for the hard line by electing as their party chief Ivan Polozkov, a man known for quashing the fledgling private businesses allowed under Gorbachev's reforms.

Using old-style ideological rhetoric that Gorbachev rarely resorts to these days, he declared the party should be "loyal to the ideas of the October revolution, and its basis will be Marxist-Leninist theory, socialist ideals."

Polozkov's election increased the chances of a split in the party, doubling Gorbachev's challenge: he now has to not only remain at the party's helm, but keep it from breaking apart as well.

He warned that a split "would be a gift to those who want to bury Perestroika," and threw all his powers of persuasion, including a sudden tone of urgency, into his appeal against the split.

But with the national congress a week away, odds remained high that the communist party would see its first major schism since the time of Lenin.

## There must be a secular solution for Lebanon

Wade R. Gorla, assistant professor of modern Near Eastern History at New York University, is the author of *Sovereignty and Leadership in Lebanon, 1943-1976*. The following was excerpted from a longer article in *The World* and *I*.

By Wade R. Gorla

AS long as Lebanon's crisis is linked to the regional concerns of Syria and Israel, a military or political solution is impossible. The only viable solution lies in internationalisation of the conflict via great-power intervention.

Relations among the world's major powers — the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Japan, Britain, China, and a soon-to-be-reunited Germany — are remarkably close at present compared with the climate of tension during the last century.

The political system of each of the great powers seeks to preserve the separation of church and state. Each is, therefore, well suited to embrace the cause of secularism in Lebanese politics.

These powers have the military and financial capacity to ensure the prompt withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces and institute radical change in the Lebanese system aimed at eliminating sectarianism. A new government founded on secular principles could be established with representatives selected in elections supervised by the great powers.

Only candidates running on a national, secular platform — such as, in theory, the Progressive Socialist Party of Walid Jumblatt or Amal under Nabih Berri — would be admitted as candidates.

All confessionally based parties should be banned. The platforms of movements such as Hizbollah are not only antithetical to the reestablishment of a united Lebanon but to religious tolerance in general.

The office of prime minister — historically feeble — should be abolished, since its existence undermines presidential accountability. A new Chamber of Deputies should be elected according to a districting plan that accurately reflects demographics.

Furthermore, the army must be entirely reconstituted. Merit should replace confessionality as the determinant of participation and promotion. Purely Maronite, Druze, and Shi'ite brigades should have no place in army life, as the existence of such brigades serves only to reinforce sectarianism, with its attendant exclusivism and injustice.

Creating a national educational system that focuses on building unity through the eradication of religious intolerance must be an important long-range goal. Political symbols such as a new flag that incorporates important aspects of each of the communities must replace the obsolete cedar of Lebanon flag, long associated with the Maronites and the Falangist Party.

Social amenities such as park and recreational facilities that serve the poor as well as the rich should be built. A concerted effort should be made to replace Lebanon's archaic transportation system. Devoid of working railroads and a modern bus system, Lebanon's transportation system is based mainly on automobiles and taxis.

Without mass transportation, access between the various regions of Lebanon is denied to those who cannot afford private vehicles or taxis. This enforced isolation serves as an impediment to national unity, and its rectification is therefore vital.

Ever since confessionality was

instituted in Lebanon during the 1820s, it has been a source of grave political, social and economic injustices — not only to Shi'ite, Sunni, and Druze but also to Greek Orthodox and Greek Catholics. The latter two communities constitute nearly half a million citizens. The political influence of Greek Catholics and Greek Orthodox, long obscured due to Maronite preeminence over the Christian community, can foster equilibrium in the Lebanese political equation.

After 15 years of conflict, the great powers should recognise that unless they take decisive action the tragedy of Lebanon will continue.

Are there alternatives to a secular solution that would maximise Lebanese political participation and promote the cause of religious tolerance, so vital to the cultural life of the country?

In view of Lebanese diversity, the balance of domestic and regional forces, and the workable historical precedent for secularism established by the Principality of Mount Lebanon and the Chehab administration of 1958-1964, the answer is a clear no.

Reconstitution of the state based on secular practice as well as principle provides the necessary starting point for a solution to Lebanon's conflict.

The grim alternatives to secularism include confessionally based dictatorial rule similar to the Alawi model in Syria; canonisation, which would inevitably lead to more factionalism and violence; or Syrian or Israeli annexation, leading to the eradication of the political entity called Lebanon — which is no solution at all but simply an abandonment of the problem.

It is time for the great powers to put a stop to the contagion of violence and terror that is contemporary Lebanon. While im-

portant events in Eastern Europe have recently obscured Lebanon's ongoing tragedy, they have also pointed to the fact that a country can operate in effective isolation.

Furthermore, the great powers were responsible for establishing the confessional system in the first place, ensuring that Lebanon would remain a divided country.

A democratic, secular solution put in place by the great powers would seem to violate Lebanon's "Arab Face." But the devastation of the last 15 years makes it quite clear that there is no Arab solution. The Arab League is impotent, and no Arab country has offered a solution that is backed with sufficient force to work.

Our world is changing so rapidly and with such dramatic force that we must be especially alert not to lose sight of new global opportunities and responsibilities. As more countries arm themselves with weapons of mass destruction, the great power must keep globally responsible to keep world order. Traditional Lebanon has been called "backslapping by force."

This may seem a contradiction in terms. However, at this stage of the world's evolution, we are still a violent species and violence must be used wisely — to eventually bring about global peace. In the face of a growing challenge to secular democracies from fundamentalists, we cannot afford to allow situations like Lebanon to spread.

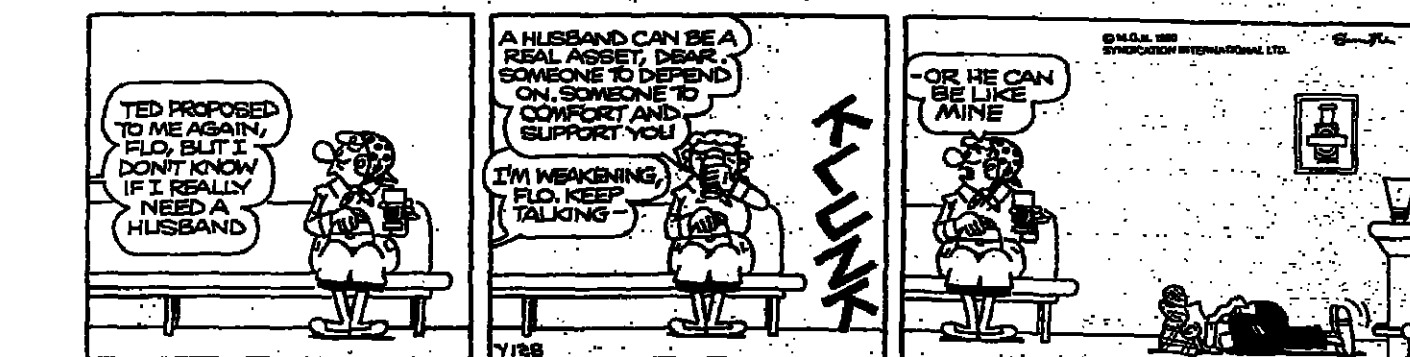
A country tethered to confessionality while adopting the mantle of democracy is doomed to destruction. While it is true that secular democracies are often flawed, the balance of forces in Lebanon makes a democratic and secular solution the only viable option.

Middle East Times

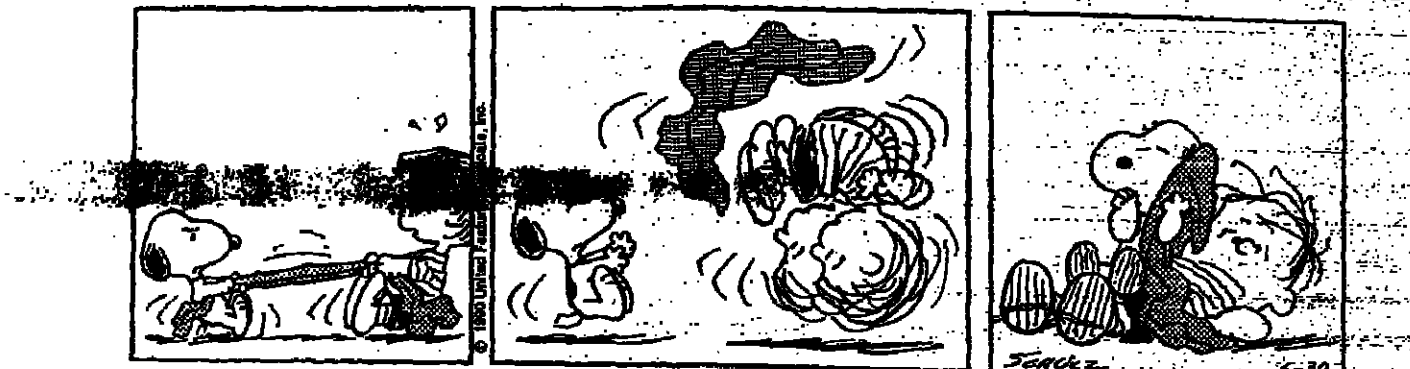
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## Ancient and new clash in old Damascus

By Martin Marris  
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, SYRIA — Perched on stilts, a boxy concrete building surmounts the remains of the 2,000-year-old Roman temple of Jupiter in teeming Damascus, dramatising the clash of old and new in this ancient city.

Abutting it, a modern, marble-clad temple of commerce with jewellers' shops and clothes boutiques stands just opposite the ancient Islamic medressah or school of Nur Ed-Din.

"It's a bad integration of the old and the new," said Nazih Kawakibi, a professor of architecture at Damascus University and a member of several restoration committees. "They could have done it much better."

Like many cities in the Middle East, Damascus is bulging at the seams and working hard to provide housing and services to a population estimated at 2 million.

Damascus is considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. It is where the Arameans, nomads from the Arabian peninsula, settled in 1200 B.C., eventually building a city that became a key commercial center.

It has been occupied over the centuries by the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and Ottomans, leaving a treasure trove of monuments reflecting the cultural tides that have swept over the city.

Some ancient sites were venerated by all the occupiers, like the famed Umayyad Mosque. The site originally was a temple to Haddad, the Arameans' God of thunder and lightning.

It later became the Romans' temple of Jupiter. The Byzantines built a cathedral there, but the Arabs transformed it into the mosque, named after the Islamic dynasty.

Despite this cultural wealth, there are only limited resources available to preserve these sites.

Kawakibi points out the ancient medressah across the street, which is just on the edge of a straight, European-style avenue driven through the city by French colonisers in the 1930s.

"They stopped here, they

didn't go further, thanks be to God," said the architect-restorationist, who has devoted his life to the preservation of his beloved old Damascus.

One 14th century Mamluk tomb has been rented to a merchant who sells, multicolored cloth. He has destroyed the original lintel and cut a door through an ancient wall to allow access to his shop.

"Unless we propose a solution to blend those monuments with the commercial life of the old city of Damascus, this is the way it will go," Kawakibi said.

"These buildings shouldn't function as commercial buildings, but as museums or cultural centers. They're all registered as historical monuments, but the law hasn't been able to prevent them from being transgressed."

In one old mosque, the antique wooden minbar or preacher's stand has been ripped out and left lying in the entrance to the building, to be replaced by a concrete one.

One architectural gem, the 11th century Nur Ed-Din hospital, is sandwiched between a modern shop selling Shawarma, thinly sliced meat wrapped in Arabic bread, and a jewellers' store. But it has miraculously survived and was restored in the late 1970s.

"Parasitic buildings accumulated around it but they're now just part of the ambience," said Kawakibi, a leading light behind the hospital's renovation.

Only one of the original stone-lattice windows, carved in intricate geometric designs, had survived but it was faithfully copied by today's master craftsmen.

A few painted Koranic inscriptions remained on the domed ceilings, but instead of repainting them the restorers gently penciled in the missing portions of the holy book's text to respect the difference between old and the new.

A display case shows ancient herbal medicines, including one called "aphrodisiac radish, diuretic, activates the functions of the genital glands."

The ancient hospital, and dozens of other old buildings in the capital, are a welcome haven of tranquility in an otherwise bustling, noisy city.



An alley in the old city of Damascus (filephoto)

Another retreat from frenetic city life is the 11th century baths, reached through a small door in the middle of the teeming souk, or bazaar.

The baths, hammam in Arabic, had been through bad times and for a while were converted into a soap factory. When restorers began working on them, some parts were just piles of rubble.

Now, men sit swaddled in towels after taking their searing baths and massage, sipping boiling-hot tea from small glass cups and reading newspapers. They sit under a dome painted with complicated flowery designs.

The road to restoration isn't easy.

"When you're trying to renovate these buildings, there's a lot of protest because they don't understand what is meant by renovation," Kawakibi said.

"They think you mean destroying the old buildings and putting up new ones."

At the Masjid Al-Madrassah Al-Umariyah, which dates from the time of the 1st crusade, dozens of squatters who built concrete shacks on the grounds of the ancient building are being evicted.

In deciding how to proceed, the restorers rely on old drawings, their knowledge of the architectural practices of the time, and sometimes old 19th and early 20th century photographs.

In the 1960s, the government and experts drew up a master plan for the city, including providing services for the modern city and preserving the old, but the plan is now hopelessly outdated.

Even a devoted restorationist like Kawakibi acknowledges that "attention should be paid to modern problems more than old ones. We need infrastructure, telephones, transportation."

## Trinidad flirting with Europe and shunning the United States

By Bernd Debusmann  
Reuter

PORT OF SPAIN — Trinidad and Tobago is setting out to woo holidaymakers from faraway Europe partly because tourist planners fear a U.S. recession will cut American travel to the Caribbean.

"We feel Europe is a better market for us," said Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Minister of Industry, Enterprise and Tourism. "Europeans stay longer and spend more (than U.S. tourists)."

Unlike most of the other islands in the 3,200 kilometre Caribbean chain, Trinidad and Tobago has been indifferent to the tourist industry for most of its

history. Instead, the twin-island republic relied on income from oil.

But the decline in oil prices in 1982 drove Trinidad and Tobago into a severe crisis, prompting a reappraisal of economic policies.

Now, the government is trying to diversify the one-legged economy and attract foreign investors as well as foreign tourists.

Over the next five years, the government hopes to double the number of tourists, chiefly by concentrating "on the potential holiday market of Europe because that market is more buoyant than the North American market."

U.S. tourism to the Caribbean dropped steadily in the second

half of the 1980s, a period of fast growth in travel from Europe. And according to a study by the country's newly-established tourist development authority, U.S. travel to Caribbean holiday destinations is expected to decline further.

The emphasis on Europeans appears to defy geographical logic: The air distance from Port of Spain to Miami, for example, is 2,600 kilometres. From Trinidad to Europe, it is more than 8,000 kilometres.

But world-wide, long-haul travel is expected to increase much faster than short-haul travel, partly because of the impending introduction of a new generation of aircraft with around

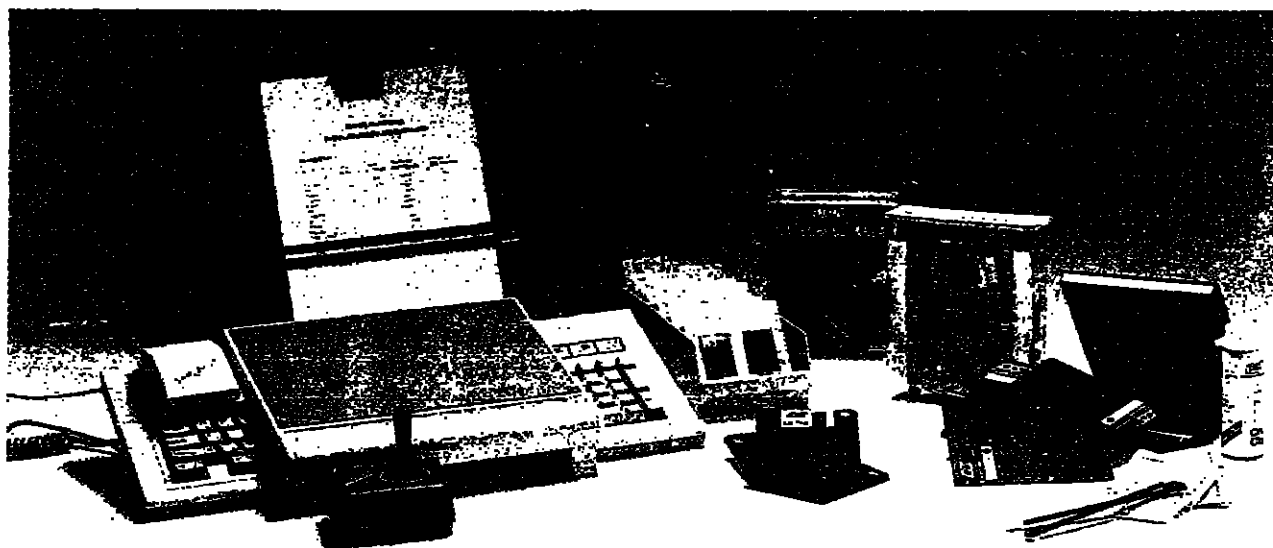
200 seats which make it more profitable to serve low-volume destinations such as Trinidad and Tobago.

"We are aware of the damage tourism has inflicted in other parts of the world," said Tewarie. "We will not allow that to happen here."

The island's inhabitants appear determined that things should remain that way. A sign at Buccoo beach, launch-point for snorkelling and scuba-diving excursions to a coral reef teeming with underwater life, reflects the philosophy.

It says: "Waste nothing but time, take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints."

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## UEFA lifts ban on all English soccer clubs except Liverpool

GENEVA (R) — The European Football Union (UEFA) said Tuesday it had lifted unconditionally a ban on English soccer clubs competing in Europe with immediate effect.

"We have decided after extensive discussions to bring back Aston Villa and Manchester United," UEFA President Lennart Johansson told reporters after a meeting of the UEFA Executive Committee in Geneva.

They will be in the competition as of now... the only restrictions are those we place on any club, there is nothing specific to say."

He said League champions Liverpool remained banned for a further three years from today.

English clubs have been barred from Europe since 1985 after an European Cup Final riot involving Liverpool supporters at Brussels' Heysel Stadium in which 39 people were killed, most of them fans of Italian club Juventus.

English Football Association (FA) Chairman Bert Millichip formally applied to have the ban lifted and also presented a report prepared by British Sports Minister Colin Moynihan.

"It is exactly what I had hoped for," Millichip said of Moynihan's report. He said he had

presented the committee with a three-page letter from Moynihan accompanied by 15 pages of supplementary information.

"He (Moynihan) has said he doesn't think the ban is justified," Millichip said.

Moynihan said in London that he would still like English fans to be banned from travelling to what he called sensitive matches and called for tough policing to prevent hooliganism.

Liverpool's extra three-year ban was imposed in 1985 and was always due to begin when other English clubs were allowed back into Europe.

Millichip told reporters the FA had not yet asked UEFA to reduce or lift that ban.

FA Cup winners Manchester United will be included in Wednesday's draw for the European Cup Winners' Cup while Aston Villa, runners up to Liverpool in the English League, will take part in the UEFA Cup.

"It's great, not just for United but for British football really,"

that English clubs are back in," England and Manchester United skipper Bryan Robson said from his home in Manchester.

United were the first English team to play in a European competition, reaching the semifinals of the European Cup in 1957 before taking the title in 1968.

Villa won the European Cup in 1982 while Liverpool have taken the title four times.

Johansson said he was delighted to have the English clubs back next season. "I think isolation is not a good thing either for English football or for European football," he said.

"English fans are no worse than others, it's just we have focussed on them."

Asked repeatedly if any conditions had been imposed on the English clubs, he said that any measures deemed necessary would be taken by the English FA.

Millichip, asked if this could involve a ban on the sale of away tickets, said: "Nothing is ruled out."

He said that the issue of Liverpool had not been discussed by the Executive Committee but that if the English return proved successful, the F.A. would seek

to reduce the three-year ban at the end of the coming season.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has recommended the return of English soccer clubs to Europe, clearing the way for an end to their five-year exile, British officials said Monday.

"The prime minister is behind the view that we should recommend a return subject to conditions such as discouraging the sale of tickets abroad, to provide video screen back in England for matches that are played and to keep under review restrictions on the sale of alcohol," a senior Thatcher aide said.

The aide said the government had considered three options: "One, not to recommend a return, secondly, to recommend a return without qualifications and thirdly to recommend a return with qualifications and conditions."

The recommendation follows a successful drive against hooliganism at the World Cup soccer tournament which ended in Italy Sunday and which saw England's national side end in fourth place, its best finish for 24 years. England also won the sportsmanship trophy for committing the fewest fouls.

Earlier Menem had urged supporters to give the team a special welcome.

Banners hoisted above the cheering crowd read: "Thank you champions." And "champions, you did it all for the country."

"Codexal, robber" proclaimed

## Argentine team returns to heroes' welcome

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's World Cup soccer squad returned to a tumultuous heroes' welcome Monday despite losing 1-0 to West Germany in the Rome final Sunday.

Tens of thousands of jubilant fans packed the square outside the Casa Rosada (pink house) government house, setting off fireworks, waving blue and white Argentine flags and chanting "Argentina, Argentina" as the team arrived from Buenos Aires's international airport.

A caravan of cars, truck and buses accompanied the team's coaches for hours as they crawled the 25 kilometres from the airport to the city centre. The crush of well-wishers blocked the main highway, forcing the motorcade to weave through side streets.

Soccer enthusiast President Carlos Menem missed part of Monday's Independence Day celebrations in order to greet the players as they arrived at the Casa Rosada.

Menem stood alongside Captain Diego Maradona as the team waved to the sea of delirious fans from the balcony where four years earlier Argentina's World Cup champion team had celebrated its victory at the Mexico finals.

Earlier Menem had urged supporters to give the team a special welcome.

Banners hoisted above the cheering crowd read: "Thank you champions." And "champions, you did it all for the country."

"Codexal, robber" proclaimed

others, referring to Mexican referee Edgardo Codexal who awarded West Germany the controversial penalty that led to the winning goal.

Codexal's handling of the match, in which two Argentine players were sent off, was bitterly criticised in Monday newspapers.

La Nacion daily wrote: "The national side suffered because of Mexican referee Edgardo Codexal, who awarded a non-existent penalty and sent off Monzon and

Dezoni."

Argentines interviewed by radio and television all condemned the referee. President Menem said Codexal had not been up to the occasion.

"The referee was a disaster. He should stick to medicine and not football," said Menem, referring to Codexal's profession as a gynecologist.

Despite the defeat, Argentina celebrated its team's performance late into Sunday night. In Buenos

Aires thousands of fans poured into the area near the obelisk monument where sporting victories are traditionally commemorated.

Traffic jams built up in the suburbs as revellers blocked streets, waving blue and white flags, beating bass drums and chanting "Argentina, Argentina."

"Anyone would think Argentina had won the cup," said one onlooker.

## Neapolitans propose making Maradona honorary citizen

NAPLES (R) — Naples city councilors have proposed making Argentina's Diego Maradona an honorary citizen of the southern Italian port, where he also captains league champions Napoli.

Antonio Cantalamessa said Tuesday that the proposal, prompted by hostility towards Maradona during the World Cup, had already been presented to the Naples mayor.

"It was shameful the way the Argentine national anthem was whistled at in northern Italian stadiums and also during the final in Rome," Cantalamessa said.

"It is equally shameful that a great champion was tormented merely because he happens to play for Napoli," he added.

Maradona was brought to tears

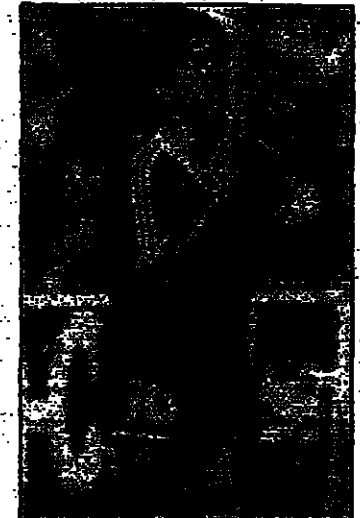
when he was booed and whistled while collecting his runners-up medal after Argentina lost the final 1-0 to West Germany Sunday.

He accused an "international soccer mafia" of conspiring to award West Germany the World Cup title and said that returning to Italy could be difficult after his reception during the tournament.

But he added: "I'm not afraid. I'm sure the people of Naples will defend me."

Northern Italian soccer fans reviled Maradona for the way Napoli snatched the league title away from AC Milan in the closing stages of last season.

And when Argentina eliminated Italy on penalties in the World Cup semifinal last week, it seemed as if the entire nation had



Diego Maradona turned against him.

Cantalamessa said Maradona should be made an honorary citizen of Naples in recognition of his soccer talents and for leading Napoli to two league titles and the UEFA Cup title.

## 'Half of the world watched cup finals'

ROME (R) — Half the population of the world tuned in to watch at least part of the World Cup finals on television, organising committee director Luca Di Montezemolo said.

"The World Cup had an enormous television audience all over the world," Di Montezemolo said.

Total viewing figures had topped 30 billion, he added. "We reached only 13 billion in Mexico (in 1986). There has never been a sporting event like this."

Receipts from the month-long event also set a world record 170 billion lire (\$14 million) from ticket sales.

"The World Cup didn't only represent a month of celebrations for our country and allow us to cut a good figure but it also brought us an economic profit," Di Montezemolo told a news

conference.

The local organising committee (COL) is expected to earn \$15 million from the finals but Di Montezemolo said figures were still being prepared.

Di Montezemolo said organisers were happy with the security arrangements which involved 45,000 police officers around the country.

"On the eve of the World Cup, security was one of the most delicate problems," he said. "I was reading reports in the press suggesting that certain matches, like Holland-Germany, would be the third world war."

About 400 English fans were deported and 70 charged after clashes in several Italian cities and towns.

"But thanks to the excellent work of the police we didn't have the slightest incident inside the

stadiums in 52 matches," Di Montezemolo said.

Di Montezemolo is widely expected to be asked by FIFA to join their committee overseeing the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said one member of the Organising Committee was routinely asked to stay on for the next tournament.

"I think Luca would be the ideal man because he has done a wonderful job here and Italy has done a wonderful job," Tognoni said.

Tognoni said he expected a lot of popular interest in the United States for the next finals, despite the country's lack of soccer tradition.

"I am confident that we will have 52 sell-out games because that is the way the U.S. responds to big sports events," he said.

## Pensec passes Bauer for lead in Tour de France

MONT BLANC, France (AP) — Roman Pensec celebrated his 27th birthday by capturing the overall lead in the Tour de France Tuesday, replacing Steve Bauer who finished almost two minutes behind the Frenchman in the 10th stage.

Thierry Claveyrolat of France won the 118.5-kilometre stage from Geneva, Switzerland, to Mont Blanc — the highest peak in Europe — finishing two minutes and 23 seconds ahead of a pack that included Pensec and 1988 winner Pedro Delgado of Spain.

Pensec's finish gave him a 50-second lead over Italy's Claudio Chiappucci and a one-minute-and-21-second advantage over Bauer, who dropped to third after entering the stage with a 17-second lead over Pensec.

Mexican Raul Alcala moved up one place to fourth, 7:02 behind Pensec. East Germany's Uwe Ampler was fifth, 9:22 behind and Guido Winterberg of Switzerland was sixth, 9:51 behind.

The stage was marked by three difficult climbs, including the final one up to 1,400 metres. Claveyrolat broke away early and made a solitary effort for the stage victory.

Wednesday's stage is the hardest of the tour with a difficult climb up l'Alpe d'Huez and its 21 turns up to the summit. It is 182.5 kilometres.

## HOCKEY

### Penguins interested in signing Islanders' Trotter

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Penguins are interested in signing free-agent center Bryan Trotter, the National Hockey League's (NHL) seventh-leading all-time scorer, who cleared waivers after being released by the New York Islanders.

"He's a real character guy," Penguins General Manager Craig Patrick said Monday. "We have a lot of good young talent on our hockey club, and we have people who have good character. But can't add enough."

Trotter, who turns 34 on July 17, helped the Islanders to four consecutive Stanley Cup Championships from 1980-83, has six 100-point seasons and led the NHL in scoring in 1978-79 with 134 points.

But in 1988-89 he slipped to 17 goals and 45 points, then had 13 goals and 24 points last season. He scored his last goal, the 500th of his career, on Feb. 13 and has 1,353 points.

New York released Trotter last week, buying out the last two years of his contract, worth about \$1.9 million. He cleared waivers Sunday.

Patrick said he is interested in discussing a "short-term situation" with Trotter, who declined the offer of a front-office position with the Islanders, saying he feels he can still play.

"We could always use another centerman and we have a situation that I think might be appealing," Patrick said.

Meanwhile the surgery that was considered a last resort for Mario Lemieux in February has become the only solution to the recurring back problem of the Pittsburgh Penguins' superstar center.

The Penguins announced Monday that surgeons will remove

part of a herniated disk in Lemieux's back Wednesday in hopes of relieving the pain.

Lemieux could recover in as little as six weeks, team physician Charles Burke said, but doctors probably will need another six weeks before they can determine how successful the surgery was.

"We'll have some very good clues before then," said Burke, who added that there was a 90-per cent chance Lemieux could be ready for Pittsburgh's season opener on Oct. 5.

"Despite the delicacy of this surgery, the complications are very small and very rare," he said. "We do not expect any difficulties."

Back problems spoiled Lemieux's hopes of breaking Wayne Gretzky's National Hockey League-record 51-game point-scoring streak. Playing with a brace and despite pain, Lemieux had scored in 46 straight games before leaving the ice without a point on Feb. 14 against the New York Rangers.

He went to Los Angeles to see Dr. Robert Watkins, a spine specialist who assigned him exercises to try to correct the problem without surgery.

After missing 21 games, Lemieux returned for Pittsburgh's last game on March 31 and scored a goal in a 3-2 overtime loss to Buffalo that knocked the Penguins out of the playoffs.

They were 5-12-4 without him in the lineup and did not win a game away from Pittsburgh without him.

Despite playing only 59 games, Lemieux finished with 45 goals and 123 points, fourth in the NHL in scoring behind Gretzky, Mark Messier and Steve Yzerman. He was leading the league in scoring when his back gave out.

## 29 solar-powered cars begin race

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida (AP) — Under a bright, sunny sky Monday, 29 solar-powered cars designed and built by college students began a 2,560-kilometre race aimed at proving the usefulness of the technology.

The 11-day race is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Society of Automotive Engineers and the General Motors Company.

"We hope young people will get excited about this race," and that it serves as an incentive for developing solar-powered technology, said GM President Bob

Stemple in ceremonies prior to the start.

Thirty-two cars entered the competition, but Arizona state had problems with its brakes and gears and was scratched from the first day's start, organisers said.

That car will start on the second leg of the race and be penalised for the lost time.

Winners will be determined by adding up the times it takes to complete each day's leg.

Two other cars had trouble getting away immediately but were expected to leave later in the day. They were the entries

from the University of North Texas and the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

The cars in the competition, powered only by the sun and storage batteries, will travel over secondary roads. They are headed for a July 19 finish at the General Motors Technical Centre in Warren, Michigan, a suburb outside Detroit, the centre of the country's automobile industry.

The combination of direct sunlight and stored energy can propel some of the vehicles at high speeds for limited distances, but the cars must abide by posted speed limits.

Wednesday's stage is the hardest of the tour with a difficult climb up l'Alpe d'Huez and its 21 turns up to the summit. It is 182.5 kilometres.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Schillaci named top cup player

ROME (AP) — Italian striker Salvatore Schillaci, the leading World Cup scorer, was voted the top player of the 1990 championship in separate surveys by two commercial sponsors. Schillaci, who tallied six goals to equal Italy's 1982 World Cup hero Paolo Rossi, was the most voted player in the Adidas and Diadora "golden athlete" survey. In one of the surveys the Italian forward of Juventus of Turin edged West German captain Lothar Matthaus and Argentine star Diego Maradona. West German coach Franz Beckenbauer, whose team captured the World Cup, was voted the best manager.

### Vicini to keep his job

MILAN (AP) — Azezio Vicini will coach Italy's national team through the 1992 European soccer championships in Sweden, Antonio Matarrese announced Tuesday. The announcement by the president of the Italian Soccer Federation was intended to end speculation that Vicini may be fired following Italy's failure to win the World Cup. Italy lost the championship semifinals to Argentina following a penalty shootout. In an interview with Milan's sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport Matarrese also warned Argentine star Diego Maradona against fuelling verbal controversies.

### 384 fans deported during World Cup

ROME (R) — Italy deported 384 soccer fans for unruly behaviour and refused entry to another 52 as part of its security drive against hooligan violence at the World Cup. Police Chief Vincenzo Parisi said. Italy mounted the biggest security operation in the history of the World Cup, mainly to counter potential violence from notorious hooligans among England supporters. Parisi said it cost 80 billion lire (\$65 million) and involved more than 50,000 police and support staff. He told a news conference that 284 supporters had been detained during the month-long tournament and 129 of them were charged with various offences. "Exemplary sentences" were given to 35 of those charged, he added. Parisi gave no precise nationality breakdown but almost all the clashes reported involved English, Italian or West German supporters. Parisi said 102 people had been injured, half of them police.

### Leao tipped to be new coach of Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Emerson Leao, coach of Sao Paulo

soccer club Portuguesa, is the most likely replacement for Sebastiao Lazaroni to take over Brazil's national squad, the Jornal Dos Sports newspaper reported Monday. The newspaper quoted Roberto Vieira, spokesman for the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), as saying Leao was most likely to be named as the new coach. The CBF will announce its decision on July 28, the paper said.

### Elliot returns to win slow 800 metres

LAPPEENRANTA, Finland (R) — Britain's Peter Elliot won the 800 metres in the Karelia Games here Monday in his first race over the distance in six weeks. Elliot, the fastest man over 800 metres in the world so far this year, clocked one minute 46.45 seconds, well behind his season's best of 1:42.97. After the race his coach Kim McDonald said: "He was very satisfied considering it was his first 800 metres for six weeks. The conditions were very bad. It was very windy and raining." Wilfried Kirochi of Kenya was second in 1:47.24 and Finland's Esko Parpala third in 1:48.00.

### Italians desert TV sets for final

ROME (R) — Millions of Italians, deeply disappointed at their side's elimination from the World Cup, did not even watch the final between West Germany and Argentina Sunday. Domestic viewing figures released Monday showed 18.5 million people watched the scrappy final, making it the ninth most popular match of the World Cup. The most popular game was the semifinal on July 3 when Italy was knocked out by Argentina. A record 27.5 million people — nearly 90 per cent of the television viewing population — watched the game.

### Seles beats Garrison in exhibition

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Yugoslavia's Monica Seles, playing her first match at home after her swift climb in world rankings, beat Wimbledon women's finalist Zina Garrison 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in an exhibition tennis match. Garrison, who last week beat Seles in three sets in a Wimbledon quarterfinal, lost Sunday in her first Grand Slam final to Martina Navratilova. "I know this was not Wimbledon, but it is a small revenge," said the 16-year-old U.S.-based Yugoslav who in one year rose from 86th to third place in the world rankings.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH  
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North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH  
♠ K 7 6  
♥ Q 4  
♦ A 7 3  
♣ K Q 10 7 5

EAST  
♠ 8 4 3  
♥ J 10 7 6 5  
♦ A K 9  
♣ J 8 4 2

SOUTH  
♠ A Q J 9  
♥ 8 3 2  
♦ K 9  
♣ A J 9 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 NT Pass 4 NT Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: ?

There are few bridge players who won't empathize with the title of Matthew Granovetter's new bridge mystery, *I Shot My Bridge Partner*. (Paperback, 365 pp., \$12.95 plus \$2. shipping from Granovetter Books, 18 Village View Blvd., Ballston Lake, N.Y. 12019.) But if everyone carried through on the title, bridge would have vanished years ago.

This is a better book than Granovetter's first, *Murder at the Bridge Table*. It is written with more humor

and the murder mystery is more entertaining. And, again, there is a considerable amount of sage bridge advice. Our caveat, once again, is that we are not sure how well the two mix.

This hand featured in the book is from a Swiss Team event. Cover all the hands except for West, then decide what you would choose for your opening lead and why.

At one table West led a low diamond. Declarer played low from dummy, took the king and then ran five clubs, followed by four spades. On the last spade West had to hold two diamonds and was forced to bare down to the ace of hearts.

Dummy came down to Q 4 of hearts and size of diamonds, and declarer simply exited with a heart to set up a 12th trick.

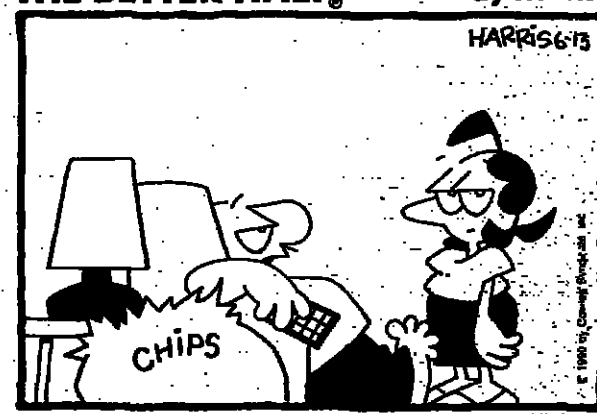
At the other table, West led the king of hearts. Since the North-South bidding showed about 30 HCP and West held 10, East was marked with virtually nothing.

Therefore, West hoped to hit a long suit and was well rewarded. The defenders took the first five heart tricks.

The book is spiced with characters, real and imaginary, you will recognize. Worth a look.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I want a divorce, but only if Vanna White gets custody of me."

## JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

URRYC

BYBEA

MOPSIE

BOMERY

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Yesterday's Jumble: BATCH CHAFF DISOWN IMPORT

Answer: Sometimes comes to a head when insults are thrown back and forth.—A FIST

## THE Daily Crossword

by Wilson McBeath

ACROSS  
1 Choice  
6 Commedia dell'  
10 Gemstone  
14 Goddess of destiny  
15 Singer  
16 Leave out  
17 Eminent  
18 Remote  
19 Inking  
20 House  
21 Speaker once  
22 Sports org.  
23 Dailies  
24 Kind of moth  
26 Spread out  
30 Courtyards  
32 Bubbly drink  
33 MS Ralines  
35 Ready for war  
39 Generally  
41 Ella e.g.  
43 Singer  
44 Haggard  
45 Four grades  
46 Girl in a  
Sailinger story  
47 Part of EAP  
48 Violent one  
51 Old prof.  
53 Burma's neighbor  
55 Part of a fishhook  
56 House  
57 Speaker  
58 During WWI  
62 Unkivl  
63 Turk. river  
64 Eng. river  
65 Customer  
66 Breakfast dish  
67 A Reagan  
68 Sibby e.g.  
69 Eng. river  
70 Shoe inserts

DOWN  
2 "The Sheik of —"  
7 Reflection  
8 Ski lift  
9 Breadwinner  
10 House  
11 Vestment  
12 Islamic coin  
13 Ms Kett  
21 Alpine sound  
25 Carlo  
26 Menotti  
27 Attitudinize  
28 Winglike  
29 House  
31 Bird  
34 Caster's mother  
36 Swine food  
37 Ms Samma  
38 Hunter's game  
40 Zaire river  
42 Prevent  
45 Dilute  
46 Picture case  
50 Acclivity  
51 Respite  
52 Forest in "As You Like It"  
54 Gather  
55 Wine word  
56 Goblins  
58 Regan's father  
59 Br. composer  
60 Percy  
61 plant  
62 Section of F.

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS  
1 Choice  
6 Commedia dell'  
10 Gemstone  
14 Goddess of destiny  
15 Singer  
16 Leave out  
17 Eminent  
18 Remote  
19 Inking  
20 House  
21 Speaker once  
22 Sports org.  
23 Dailies  
24 Kind of moth  
26 Spread out  
30 Courtyards  
32 Bubbly drink  
33 MS Ralines  
35 Ready for war



## Survey points to recession in East, growth in West

GENEVA (AP) — The recession in East Europe and the Soviet Union is deepening, in contrast to strong economic growth in Western market economies, according to a new U.N. report.

The report published Monday warned of bleak economic prospects for East Germany in the near future. It said tensions, including unemployment, arising from economic union with West Germany should not be underestimated.

However the report added that stagnation of the East German economy in the medium term "would not appear to be a realistic scenario."

The report was compiled by experts at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) that groups east and west Europe, the United States and Canada. It was published as an update to the 34-nation ECE's main annual survey issued in April.

The 27-page report said gross industrial output in East Europe fell by 13.4 per cent in the first three months of 1990. In the Soviet

Union it was down 1.2 per cent.

In volume terms, East European exports to the West were six per cent lower than the first quarter of 1989. Romania and Bulgaria witnessed the largest falls. Exports from the Soviet Union to the West fell 10 per cent, the report said.

It said by mid-1990, economic policies of the emerging democracies in Eastern Europe were dominated by uncertainty.

"The only certain element appears to be that the recession in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union is far from having run its course," it said.

In a special section on German economic and monetary union, the report said East Germany's huge investment potential was likely to favour a "relatively strong recovery in the medium term." U.N. officials said "medium term" was defined as a period of at least one year after political union.

The report said that estimates for investment in infrastructure, environmental protection and industrial capital added up to more

than 1,500 billion Deutschmarks (\$910 billion).

In the short term — before full reunification of the two countries — a severe downturn in East German economic activity could not be ruled out, the report said.

But it stressed that wealthy West Germany could afford the level of financial help needed by the east. Increased tax revenues from higher than expected economic growth in West Germany meant that further tax increases might not be needed to finance the costs that reunification, it said.

The report said West Germany's current account surplus was expected to fall only slightly. The inflationary impact of German monetary policy was likely to be modest because of the tight monetary policy of the West German Bundesbank and anticipated restraints in East German consumption, it said.

The report said West Germany's gross national product was expected to grow by four per cent this year, against an average of three per cent for West Europe as a whole.

## MMI eyes E. Europe opportunities

WARSAW (R) — Marsh and McLennan Companies Inc. (MMI) of the United States, the world's biggest insurance broker, said Tuesday it was eyeing business opportunities in Eastern Europe.

"We've made a commitment to taking a very serious look at East European countries. It's the only part of the world we're not operating in at the moment," MMI Deputy Chairman Philip Wroughton said during a visit to Warsaw.

New York-based MMI opened an office in Vienna last month responsible for Eastern Europe.

Wroughton told reporters prospects for business in Poland would depend on insurance legislation expected to go before parliament shortly.

"If it turns out to be favourable towards brokers and a free market, we would be taking a very serious look," he said.

Poland has five domestic insurers, one of which — Warta — is already active on the London reinsurance market. But direct broking has been virtually non-existent, Wroughton said.

He said opportunities in both broking and reinsurance would grow as privatisation spread. "The knock-on effect of a free market is added exposure to risk, which requires insurance."

Newly privatising companies would need brokers to advise on their insurance needs and arrange third-party, property and other cover through domestic insurers and on the world market, MMI officials said.

MMI is a subsidiary of Marsh and McLennan Companies, Inc. (MMC), which operates in more than 80 countries and had turnover in 1989 of \$2.4 billion.

## Iran backs Iraqi call for \$25 barrel of oil

NICOSIA (R) — A senior Iranian official has backed Iraq's call for an oil target price of \$25 a barrel, saying it should form the basis of the fight to raise slumping prices at an OPEC conference later this month.

Ali Shams Ardakani, adviser to the minister of mines and metals, said in an article in Ettelaat newspaper Monday that Iran and Iraq should form a solid front to push for higher prices against OPEC quota-busters.

"Fortunately, the Iraqi oil minister has announced... that the oil price should be set at \$25 per barrel. This very statement should be taken as a cornerstone in the cooperation for oil price adjustment," the official Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Ardakani as telling the newspaper.

Oil prices have dropped to about \$14 a barrel from around \$21 at the beginning of the year largely because of overproduction by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Iran and Iraq, who fought a bitter war from 1980 to 1988, have been drawn increasingly closer in OPEC by a common desire for higher prices to produce revenue to finance war reconstruction projects.

Ardakani said the oil price issue was a good testing ground for Iraq's capability to cooperate with Iran on regional policies.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi said two weeks ago that the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) should maintain their output quotas until oil prices reach \$25 a barrel.

OPEC ministers are due to meet in Geneva July 25 to discuss production plans for the rest of the year.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said Monday King Fahd was eager to stabilise the petroleum market

and ensure success of the forthcoming OPEC conference.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said the minister was speaking at the weekly cabinet meeting held in Jeddah.

King Fahd "is extremely keen to restore stability to the petroleum market and that the kingdom does its utmost to ensure the success of OPEC's conference due to be held in Geneva July 25," Nazer told the cabinet.

SPA, monitored in Cyprus, said Nazer briefed the cabinet on the outcome of a Gulf tour that took him to Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar and Iraq.

He also briefed the meeting on talks he had with the Algerian, Nigerian and Libyan oil ministers who visited the kingdom at various times earlier this month, it added.

The tour was "within the framework of joint efforts to restore stability to the petroleum market," it explained.

Nazer visited Baghdad Sunday and diplomats there said he had been entrusted with trying to resolve a rift between Iraq and two Gulf Arab states — Kuwait and the UAE — accused of undermining world oil prices by exceeding output quotas.

The diplomats said a letter Nazer delivered to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein dealt with ways to reduce a petroleum glut that caused a 30 per cent drop in oil prices this year.

Iraq last month accused the two states of flooding the market with cheap crude and urged OPEC members to adhere strictly to the group's production rules.

Key oil ministers have reported some progress in bilateral deliberations ahead of the OPEC conference.

They say the aim at the conference will be to reach an accord to restore average spot prices to OPEC's declared target of \$18 per barrel.

## Grant of \$2.3m raises EC education aid to Jordan to \$7 million

By Ica Wahbeh

Jordan Times staff Reporter

AMMAN — The European Community (EC) has granted 1.8 million European Currency Units (ECUs) — equivalent to \$2.3 million — in line with an assistance agreement aimed at helping Jordan upgrade its education system, the EC delegate in Amman announced Tuesday.

The assistance, which is offered in conjunction with a World Bank programme to assist training and upgrading the skills of teachers in secondary schools, is expected to raise EC educational aid to Jordan so far this year to 5.5 million ECUs (\$7 million), EC delegate Christian Falkowski said.

The entire amount, provided for in the third protocol between the Community and the Kingdom, is expected to be allocated to expand Jordan's educational infrastructure and qualitative research capabilities, Falkowski told the Jordan Times.

"The Community has granted 23.1 million ECUs (\$29.5 million) through the first and second protocol funds towards scientific, educational and vocational projects aimed at training and upgrading the capabilities of scientists, researchers and technicians, and providing up-to-date technology for related facilities," Falkowski said.

The aim of this technical assistance is also to strengthen links among higher education, vocational training and manpower development. The duration of this third protocol is four years and it is implemented through the Ministry of Education.

"This is part of EC support in the education field to Jordan. We have extended a total of 32 million ECUs (\$45 million) in aid to Jordan over the past 10 years," Falkowski said.

The University of Jordan's Faculty of Engineering and Technology was the largest single grant-financed EC project, worth ECU 8.7 million (\$11 million).

According to Community records, funds have been granted to the Ministry of Education (to two secondary industrial schools), the Vocational Training Corporation, the Faculty of Science at Yarmouk University and the Royal Scientific Society.

"The funds aimed at improving the scientific knowledge and technical capabilities of the staff, and equipping and improving laboratories and workshops," according to Falkowski.

Records also show grants totalling 5.4 million ECUs (\$6.9 million) for financing workshops and classroom material for several industrial and vocational training centres and industrial schools run by the Vocational Training Corporation at Sahab, Zarqa and Amman as well as an ECU 2 million (\$2.5 million) grant to the Ministry of Education for improving education management, curricula development and administrative and teaching skills for vocational and secondary education.

In addition to extending direct aid, the Community also offers scholarships for Jordanian teachers to gain advanced training in Europe and assigns experts to visit Jordan and offer advice and training, the EC delegate said.

## British finance minister sees no problem with pound's strength

HOUSTON (R) — British Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major Monday signalled he had no objections to the recent surge in sterling but warned there could be no prospect of interest falling before inflation moderates.

Major also spelled out Britain's commitment to pegging the pound to the European Monetary Unit but gave no clues on when the government would act.

Sterling has forged ahead on international currency markets, driven by feverish speculation that Britain is about to lock the pound into the grid of semi-fixed exchange rates.

But Major took a relaxed view of the advance.

"Even at the exchange rate which sterling has reached this morning, it has only... gone back to the effective exchange rate that existed about 13 months ago," Major told journalists. "That seems to me to be an unsustainable surge."

The pound surged by nearly three pence against the Deutschmark in Europe Monday to hit 2.98 marks following a report in a British Sunday newspaper that the Bank of England was willing to let the currency climb as far as three marks.

the rise will squeeze the profits of British companies, Major said. Weest Germany and Japan — nations with traditionally strong currencies — had not seen their exports suffer from exchange rate appreciation.

Major also spelled out that Britain had not changed its view that inflation must fall to closer to the average level in the European Community (EC) before the pound could be linked to the

exchange rate mechanism.

In the 12-nation EC, all but Britain, Greece and Portugal are full members of the European Monetary System.

He said inflation was still "significantly higher" than desired even after removal of distortions caused by the inclusion of mortgage rates in the retail price index. The index showed a year-on-year rise of 9.4 per cent in April.



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## China releases grim figures

BEIJING (AP) — After months of upbeat reports on economic recovery, China's government released grim figures Monday for 1990's first six months that showed particularly poor performance by state-owned industry.

Finance Minister Wang Bing-qian, speaking at the opening of the national working conference on finance in Beijing, characterised China's financial situation as "still fairly grim," the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Wang said China was afflicted by that cycle in 1986, "when economic rectification came to a

premature end."

Domestic revenue for 1990's first half accounted for less than 40 per cent of the state budget, or 121.94 billion yuan (\$25 billion) — a 18.5 per cent increase over the same period last year.

Domestic expenditure of 123 billion yuan (\$26 billion) meanwhile, was about 39 per cent of the state budget, a 12 per cent increase over last year, it said.

"The execution of the national budget was not satisfactory enough in the first half of this year," the report said.

Xinhua quoted Wang as blaming China's economic woes on low industrial production, a sluggish market and insufficient control over expenditures.

He called for continued tightening of finance and credit, warning that "if (they) are relaxed and demand is artificially stimulated, there will surely be a sinister circle of 'inflation-austerity-inflation' again."

The only other statistics in the report were for state-owned enterprises, which for years have been a drain on China's finances.

Compared with the same period last year, their output value dropped 0.5 per cent while sales revenue dropped 2.4 per cent.

Profits plummeted more than 59 per cent, and the number of enterprises operating at a loss rose 14 per cent to more than one-third of all state-owned industrial enterprises. The report did not figure beyond the percentages.

China's industry still is reeling from the impact of a government austerity programme, begun in late 1988, that has sharply cut official spending, new construction and credit.

Production by the industrial sector as a whole plunged more than six per cent from the same period last year.

However, the official People's Daily said Monday that industrial production "took a turn for the better in the first half of the year."

## U.S. cities choke in grip of bankruptcy

WASHINGTON (R) — Cities

across the United States are racing against the clock to avoid going bankrupt — half of those with populations over 10,000 expect budget shortfalls this year.

The nation's capital city announced last week it could not pay some \$55 million owed to the city pension fund or \$30 million owed for local transport. All in all, Washington will be short \$100 million when its financial year ends Sept. 30.

"We've had projected shortfalls before, but nothing like this," Washington budget office spokesman Willy Lynch told Reuters.

"We are having cash problems because revenues aren't coming in — like cities all over the U.S., especially on the east coast," he said.

A survey unveiled this month by the National League of Cities shows Lynch is not alone. Half of America's 576 cities with populations over 10,000 expect budget shortfalls this year, squeezed by falling revenues and rising costs.

Costs are rising for employee health care, transport systems and programmes to fight pollution, drugs, AIDS and poverty.

New York City agonised for months over a predicted \$1.8 billion shortfall in its financial year ending June 30, 1990. It finally raised income, property and real estate taxes and cut \$240 million in park, library and other public services to close the gap.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, July 10, 1990

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	120.3	121.0
U.S. dollar	663.0	667.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	441.3	443.9
Pound Sterling	1207.6	1214.8	Dutch guilder	358.5	360.7
Deutschmark	403.7	406.1	Swedish crown	111.5	112.2
Swiss franc	477.2	480.1	Italian lira (for 100)	55.0	55.2
			Belgian franc (for 10)	195.5	196.7

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8195/8205	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1555/65	Canadian dollar	
	1.6410/15	Deutschmarks	
	1.8485/95	Dutch guilders	
	1.3845/55	Swiss francs	
	33.71/76	Belgian francs	
	5.5040/90	French francs	
	1202/1203	Italian lire	
	149.10/20	Japanese yen	
	5.9375/9425	Swedish crowns	
	6.2900/50	Norwegian crowns	
	6.2425/75	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	353.50/354.25	U.S. dollars	

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\* 15 September 1990 in Northern Ireland.

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# Thousands killed by governments in 1989—Amnesty

LONDON (R) — Governments struggling to control ethnic and nationalist tensions killed tens of thousands of their citizens in 1989, the human rights group Amnesty International said Wednesday in its annual report.

"Around the world, particularly where the tensions erupted into violence, tens of thousands of people became victims of security operations resulting in disappearances and extrajudicial executions," the London-based group said.

It said prisoners were tortured in close to 100 countries, people disappeared or were held in secret detention in more than 20 countries and death squads linked to governments operated in more than 35 countries.

"In countless cases, state torture was the price citizens paid for being identified as sympathisers with ethnic or nationalist movements," Amnesty said in the report on human rights observance in 138 countries.

Amnesty listed China, the Soviet Union, the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Sudan, Iraq and Guatemala as among the places where ethnic and nationalist conflict led to human rights abuse by the authorities.

In China, at least 1,000 civ-

ilians were killed and thousands injured in early June last year after weeks of pro-democracy demonstrations in Peking, Amnesty said. Secret executions and torture of prisoners followed.

The report said that in Tibet Chinese troops broke up demonstrations by Tibetans demanding independence in March 1989 and imposed martial law in the capital, Lhasa, leading to arrests and torture of prisoners.

Soviet soldiers and riot troops killed 20 people and wounded up to 3,000 in dispersing a crowd demonstrating for Georgian independence in April 1989, Amnesty said.

At least 60 people prosecuted under criminal law in the Soviet Union were imprisoned or forcibly confined to psychiatric hospitals for exercising their human rights, it said.

In the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, more than 260 unarmed Arab civilians, including children, were shot dead by Israeli forces, often in circumstances suggesting excessive use of force or deliberate killings, Amnesty said.

"Others died in incidents where tear gas was possibly deliberately misused," the report said, accusing Israeli authorities of failing to investigate the inci-

dents adequately.

In Guatemala, the security forces and death squads linked to them were reported to be implicated in hundreds of extrajudicial executions and disappearances, Amnesty said.

The report also documented attacks by security forces on human rights activities in Colombia, Honduras, Peru and Brazil.

**Human rights progress in Africa**

Hundreds of prisoners of conscience were freed in Africa last year but major human rights abuses remained, Amnesty said.

Mass arrests took place, dozens of extrajudicial executions were carried out and long-term political prisoners had still not been brought to trial on the continent, the organisation said in its annual report.

"Significant numbers of unarmed civilians were killed by soldiers fighting insurgents and people were targeted for arrest largely because of their ethnic or regional origins," Amnesty said.

The report said prisoners of conscience and political prisoners were released last year in Benin, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Africa, Namibia and Angola.

Nigeria said public executions had stopped. It reported 12 executions last year compared with 85 in the previous year. Amnesty said more might have taken place that were not reported.

In South Africa, 60 hangings took place, significantly fewer than 117 in the previous year.

But Amnesty said that in Somalia the release of some prisoners was followed by a wave of arrests in the middle of the year when many protesters were killed and 40 people were executed extrajudicially.

"In Somalia and other countries where government soldiers were fighting insurgents, such as Ethiopia, Liberia and Sudan, significant numbers of unarmed civilians arrested were summarily executed in areas affected by armed conflict," the report said.

Amnesty said a military coup in Sudan in June was followed by mass arrests, possibly the largest number of political arrests anywhere in sub-Saharan Africa last year.

"The other country in which a startling new pattern of human rights violations was noted in 1989 was Mauritania," said Amnesty. It said the government took action against black southern Mauritians after intercommunal killings.

In Chad, government claims to have thwarted a coup in April last year were followed by the arrests of several hundred members of the Zaghawa community, the report said.

It added that the government refused to say what happened to those arrested and there were fears that some had been summarily executed.

In both Chad and Malawi, considerable numbers of political detainees arrested in previous years remained in detention without charge or trial throughout last year.

Other African countries holding large numbers of political prisoners without trial or after unfair trials included Cameroon, Congo, Ghana and Uganda, Amnesty said.

**Abuses in Europe**

Amnesty said the massive political upheaval in Eastern Europe in 1989 had led to greater freedom but there had still been human rights violations across the continent.

The release of thousands of prisoners of conscience and greater freedom in the East followed mass demonstrations during which security forces arrested, tortured, detained and even kil-

led protesters, the London-based group said.

In Albania, those who tried to exercise their right to freedom were liable to harsh punishment, Amnesty said.

In Yugoslavia, at least 4,500 people, including 1,700 prisoners of conscience, were detained last year. Political prisoners were often denied a fair trial and there were allegations of brutality, the report said.

At least 60 people prosecuted under criminal law in the Soviet Union were imprisoned or forcibly confined to psychiatric hospitals for exercising their human rights, Amnesty said. At least 32 were jailed for objecting to military service, it said.

Hundreds of conscientious objectors to military service were also imprisoned in France, Greece, Italy and Switzerland. Smaller numbers were jailed in Cyprus and Finland.

Amnesty said hundreds of prisoners of conscience were jailed in Turkey, with reports of several deaths as a result of torture.

Ill-treatment in police custody or prison was reported in Austria, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and West Germany.

Amnesty said evidence emerged in Britain of collusion between Northern Ireland's

security forces and members of Protestant paramilitary groups set up to counter the Irish Republican Army's guerrilla battle to end British rule.

The report said killing, imprisonment and torture of Kurds in Turkey illustrated why Amnesty was focusing on human rights violations in an ethnic context.

It said that in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province, at least 27 people were killed and 1,000 people arrested during demonstrations by ethnic Albanians against proposed constitutional changes limiting the province's autonomy.

At least 20 people were killed and 3,000 injured when Soviet troops and riot police were alleged to have used firearms, shovels and poison gas to disperse a crowd calling for independence in Georgia.

Amnesty added that seven ethnic Turks died during demonstrations against the Bulgarian government's campaign to assimilate them. Other Turks were reported to have been beaten or arrested.

Bulgaria's government announced in December 1989 it would end key aspects of the assimilation policy.



## Racketeering charges dropped against Khashoggi

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. government Monday dropped racketeering charges against Adnan Khashoggi, who was acquitted last week of charges he helped finance Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos' bid for ownership of New York real estate and art.

James Linn, attorney for the Saudi arms dealer who was once one of the world's richest men, said the government agreed to drop racketeering charges in return for Khashoggi's agreement not to press claims to any of the New York buildings or art involved in the case.

Last Monday a federal jury acquitted Mrs. Marcos of racketeering for allegedly helping her late husband steal more than \$200 million from their country's treasury to buy the New York properties.

Khashoggi was acquitted of obstruction of justice and mail fraud for allegedly helping the Marcoses conceal their ownership of the buildings and art.

## Electricity fails during energy debate

NEW DELHI (AP) — A state legislative debate on energy funding was short-circuited by a power failure, a newspaper said. The lights went out in the 320-member Punjab State House chamber in Bihar as lawmakers were preparing to set budget allocations for the state's Energy Ministry, the Times of India said.

The unprecedented 10-minute failure prompted a walkout by members of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party, the chief opposition party.

The debate was postponed in the capital located 900 kilometres east of New Delhi. Power failures are common in India, but emergency power normally is supplied to state legislatures and ministers' homes. It was not immediately known why the legislature's emergency line did not work.

## Madonna hits back at critics

ROME (R) — Italo-American megastar Madonna, target of a campaign waged by Italy's Catholic establishment, has invited clerics who have labelled her shows blasphemous to come and watch her perform.

Landing in Rome on a concert tour, the Catholic-bred pop singer whose use of crucifixes and other sacred symbols has aroused the wrath of prominent Catholic bodies, told reporters: "I am aware the Vatican and some Catholic communities are accusing my show of being sinful and blasphemous and that they are trying to stop people seeing it. 'I appeal to you, just men and women of the Catholic Church: Come and see my show and then judge,'" she added.

The 29-year-old Madonna, who said the criticisms had made her blood boil. A news agency which reflects the opinions of the Italian bishops conference said last week her shows were an offence to good taste. A Catholic lobby group appealed for the shows to be banned.

## U.K. to hold inquiry into Titanic after 78 years

LONDON (AP) — A government inquiry is to be held into the conduct of a steamship captain who was criticised for not going to the aid of the Titanic when the ocean liner sank 78 years ago, a published report said Monday.

The Daily Telegraph said Transport Department investigators will examine testimony from the 1912 Titanic inquiry and a mass of additional material to throw light on the role of the late Capt. Stanley Lord. Evidence of the wreck's position from U.S. oceanographer Robert Ballard, who located it in 1985, will be crucial, the newspaper said.

Lord was master of the Boston-based Californian, believed to have been the nearest ship to the Titanic when the British liner struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic while steaming to New York on its maiden voyage in April 1912. More than 1,500 of the 2,200 people aboard died, many because of a shortage of lifeboats.

The Californian and other ships which were further away than the Californian did not respond to distress calls. Lord's ship was stopped by ice at the time.

The original inquiry centred on Lord not responding to distress rockets from the Titanic and on the fact that since he was 13 to 16 kilometres from the liner, he could have gone to its aid and saved lives.

## Sri Lankan troops battle to besieged camp

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops, overcoming fierce resistance from Tamil separatist guerrillas, cut a corridor through thick jungle in the northwest region to rescue colleagues in a besieged camp, military sources said Tuesday.

"They reached their goal," said an officer in Colombo after receiving confirmation that two army columns had succeeded in a pincer advance on Mannar, a strategic town on the northwest coast, to reinforce troops at a camp there. Rebels have been in control of the town and areas outside the camp.

At least 100 rebels and 15 soldiers died in the seven-day operation.

Troops advancing from Puttalam on the northwest coast to Mannar, 120 kilometres further north, fought hundreds of rebels in fortified bases in thick jungle in

a wildlife park.

The second column from Vavuniya, 80 kilometres east of Mannar, met less resistance.

Sri Lankan soldiers have been fighting Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas for the past four weeks after the rebels broke a year-old ceasefire during which they held negotiations with the government. The Tigers are demanding a separate state for the country's Tamil minority.

More than 900 rebels, members of the security forces and civilians have died in the violence.

Officials said 60 rebels were killed in eastern Amparai and Trincomalee districts where the army has surrounded large rebel camps.

A government statement said security forces destroyed an intricate system of bunkers built in

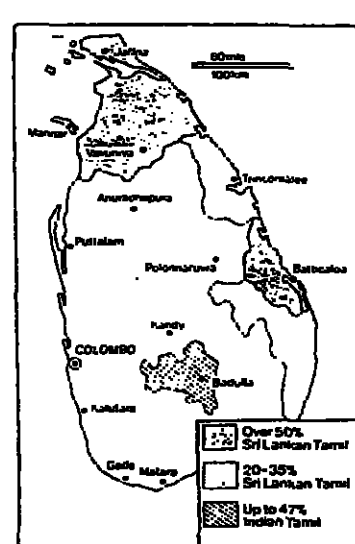
sand dunes at Kaddaiparichchan in Trincomalee.

"It consisted of a system of ventilation and observation facilities to enable the terrorists to live underground for a long period of time. The well-equipped kitchen could feed 300 at a time. Ten tonnes of food including dried venison and salted meat were found," it said.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told diplomats on Monday that the government might invite representatives of South Asian countries, the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement as observers if talks with the rebels were held again.

He was speaking during a Foreign Ministry briefing for diplomats after President Ranasinghe Premadasa recommended international mediation Sunday.

"It is only with the involvement of the international community in



a manner acceptable to us that the dialogue can recommence," Premadasa said.

Wijeratne said all steps were being taken to minimise civilian casualties in the army offensive.

He said normality had been restored in most areas of the east while operations continued in the northern districts of Jaffna, Mullaitivu, Killinochchi and Vavuniya.

## Chamorro calls in army to restore order in Managua

MANAGUA (Agencies) — President Violeta Chamorro called in the army Monday to restore order in the Nicaraguan capital after striking workers clashed with government supporters in the worst street violence in Managua in a decade.

Heavily armed soldiers began removing street barricades, but strike leaders said the work stoppage would go on.

One person died and 34 were wounded in the clashes Monday, bringing to four the number of people killed in the violence since Friday.

Mrs. Chamorro addressed the nation on state radio and television as thousands of Sandinistas backing a general strike returned to the streets and, defying government orders, erected more barricades and lit bonfires. Her speech was delayed for four hours until police cleared Sandinista students and workers seized and briefly held a government broadcasting centre.

Gunfire was heard throughout the city and a haze of foul-smelling smoke covered much of the city as Sandinista demonstrators burned tires and trash alongside the barricades.

Mrs. Chamorro called for restraint, urging "democratic Nicaraguans not to let themselves be provoked, and not to answer violence with violence, which has already claimed victims."

The violence followed a strike called in part to protest what the

unions say are massive firings by the Chamorro government.

Workers also want a greater voice in setting economic policy.

Mrs. Chamorro accused the Sandinistas of calling the nationwide strike and fomenting the disturbances. Despite their defeat in February elections at the hands of Mrs. Chamorro's U.S.-backed coalition, the Sandinistas remain the country's largest political force.

Former president Daniel Ortega urged her government to negotiate with the striking workers.

"This conflict cannot be solved by force. Any attempt in that direction is an invitation to chaos," he said in a radio interview.

Main streets in Managua were blocked, bringing the capital to near-standstill. It was reminiscent of the 1979 revolution, when Sandinistas built roadblocks in their fight to overthrow dictator Gen. Anastasio Somoza.

A group of men armed with Soviet AK-47 automatic rifles tried to shoot their way into Radio Corporacion before Mrs. Chamorro was to give her speech there, announcer Carlos Torres said. Four guards were wounded, he said.

Torres said Radio Corporacion went off the air shortly after the attack, "for reasons that I do not know."

Mrs. Chamorro was able to give her speech after police

cleared it of student protesters.

Mrs. Chamorro said she ordered the army and police "to proceed immediately to maintain public order and guarantee the security of citizens."

She said her government is seeking "social concord within the framework of national dialogue," and this should be carried out "in a climate of peace and understanding and not one of fear and intimidation."

On Sunday night, strikers blocked the road from the international airport to Managua with barricades made of paving stones. Police using mechanical shovels cleared the barricades Monday afternoon, but groups of strikers blocked the road again Monday night.

The labour unrest caused widespread disruption throughout Managua. Electricity and water service was cut off to most of the city of about 1 million residents. The capital's airport was closed by an air traffic controllers strike.

Mail service and operator-assisted phone calls have been suspended since last week due to the strike.

Strike leaders claim that more than 80,000 public and private sector workers have joined the gradually spreading week-old walkout.

A similar strike by public sector workers brought the country to a virtual standstill in May. Strikers won major concessions including raises of 100 per cent.

## Indian minister appeals to Sikh politicians on Punjab peace

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — Indian Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed urged Sikh politicians Tuesday to press militants to stop their bloody war for independence in Punjab so a new state government could be elected.

"We too want a popular government to be elected in Punjab at the earliest which could guide the destiny of the state," he told a news conference in Chandigarh, capital of the northern state, which is going through another surge of killings.

"But elections cannot be held in a situation in which the people either can't vote or have to vote at gunpoint," Sayeed said.

Sikh politicians stepped up their demands for state elections in May after the new Indian government, which came to power in December promising a solution to the decade-old Sikh insurgency, extended central rule for another six months.

Central rule was first imposed in May 1987, but the advent of a new government in New Delhi raised hopes of a solution beginning with state elections.

Instead, the violence in which thousands of people have died increased. Many government officials and security force officers say they believe militants

fighting for an independent homeland stepped up their war to prevent elections.

Sayeed put the onus on preparing for voting on the fractious factions of the Sikh Akali Dal Party.

"The political parties will have to play an important role along with the people to stamp out terrorism and bring peace to the state," he said.

"Why are they not appealing to the killers of innocent people to stop their bullets so that elections can take place?"

Last year, about 1,800 people were killed in the militant fight for a homeland they call Khalistan (land of the pure).

This year, police have reported almost as many deaths.

Sayeed repeated Delhi's frequent accusation that Pakistan was arming and training Sikh militants. It also alleges that Islamabad backs Muslim separatists in Kashmir. Pakistan, which has fought three wars with India, denies all the charges.

Sayeed alleged Pakistan was increasing its backing of the Sikh militants and pumping more arms and money into Punjab.

"The Indian government even knows the place in Pakistan where such subversive activities

against India are planned and executed," he said.

Sayeed gave no details, but intelligence sources said militant leaders are based in Pakistan, many of them in and around Lahore, the main city of Pakistani Punjab.

The sources said the leadership had sent instructions to step up attacks on security forces and supplied more weapons over the last three months as tension between India and Pakistan increased over the Kashmir secessionist uprising.

They said there might be as many as 2,500 assault rifles in militant hands in Punjab, double the estimate of six months ago.

Police said 36 members of the security forces were killed in militant attacks in June. In July, the number was already 22, they said.

Police said militants killed prominent Sikh politician Balwant Singh and three companions Tuesday in Chandigarh, which has largely been free of the violence rampant elsewhere in the state.

Senior police officials said they believed the murder of Balwant Singh, twice state finance minister, was another militant warning to politicians to have nothing to do with elections.

## Former Romanian aide seeks asylum in Switzerland

GENEVA (R) — Former Romanian Tourism Minister Mihai Lupoi has asked for political asylum in Switzerland, a Justice Ministry spokeswoman said Tuesday.

"I can confirm that he is in the country and that he has asked for asylum," she said.

Lupoi would be given a hearing by Swiss authorities Wednesday, she added.

The daily La Tribune de Geneve reported that Lupoi, 37, flew to Geneva with his wife Magdalena last Wednesday and requested political asylum the following day.

The newspaper said Lupoi, an army architect, complained of harassment by the government of Prime Minister Petre Roman.

## 'U.S. evidence against Noriega weak'

PANAMA CITY (R) — Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has said that the Miami drug trafficking case against ousted strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega was weak but that criminal charges filed in Panama against the former general would ensure he would not go free even if the U.S. case fails.

Cruz told a news conference Panama was watching "with great interest" pre-trial manoeuvring in the case which charges Noriega

with taking hundreds of thousands of dollars in exchange for allowing drugs to be smuggled through Panama. The trial is set to open in February 1991.

But Cruz said the evidence being offered by the United States, which invaded Panama last December to oust Noriega and bring him to trial, was "sparse and vague."

"If Noriega goes free in the United States, you can be sure that in Panama, he will not," Cruz

said.

Last week the Panamanian government formally filed 30 charges against Noriega, including murder, extortion, violation of human rights, falsifying passports and illicit enrichment.

A special commission set up by the government of President Guillermo Endara to investigate abuses under the Noriega regime, has said the former general amassed a fortune of some \$300 million.

## 10 killed in Kenyan political violence

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Clashes were reported Tuesday in several rural areas and low-income neighbourhoods ringing Nairobi on the fourth day of unrest in Kenya.

The clashes began Saturday when police used tear gas and guns to disperse a pro-democracy rally that turned violent. At least 10 people have been killed in four days of fighting since then.

New skirmishes between stone-throwing mobs and armed security forces were reported Tuesday morning in Kiambu, Nyeri and Githunguri.

Violence also was reported from Kangemi and Kawangware, low-income neighbourhoods on Nairobi's western edge, where residents alleged that government security forces beat people

throughout the night.

Nairobi's commercial district, the scene of widespread clashes Saturday and small disturbances Sunday, appeared calm Tuesday.

Two new fatalities from Monday's fighting were reported Tuesday. One man died of a bullet wound in Githunguri, and another was killed in the northern town of Nakuru when he was shot in the stomach.

The government, which only Monday acknowledged the fighting, has not commented on casualties.

Although some rioters have continued to shout anti-government slogans and give a two-fingered salute showing their support for multiparty democracy, observers said the violence appeared to be growing less politically oriented.

"Clearly the trigger was political, but I think it is increasingly becoming a question of simple lawlessness as people take the opportunity to engage in looting," said a Western diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

President Daniel Arap Moi Tuesday, in comments to Kenyan troops recently returned from U.N. peacekeeping duty in Namibia, blamed the riots on "hooligans and drug addicts." He said his government would continue hunting down instigators of the violence.

The government Monday ordered police to use whatever force necessary to quell the disturbances. Arap Moi's comments were his first public statement on the situation.

## Japanese tops list of world's richest people

NEW YORK (AP) — A Japanese developer again topped a list of the world's richest people, but the annually tally has one conspicuous deletion this year: Donald J. Trump.

But despite the financial troubles of the New York developer and casino owner, the United States is the nation with the world's largest number of individual billionaires — 62 — according to estimates by Forbes magazine. In addition, there are 37 U.S. families with fortunes over \$1 billion, Forbes says in its July 23 issue.

Forbes says one trend it noticed in compiling this year's list was the number of wealthy West Germans. The magazine identified 38 West German billionaire families — far more per capita than in Japan or the United States.

The list includes 40 Japanese and 99 American individuals or families with a net worth over \$1 billion.

Forbes said it identified 271 Billionaire individuals or families worldwide, up from 226 last year. The compilation is based on recent stock valuations, comparable real estate valuations and

currency exchange rates, among other factors.

The magazine says it excludes from consideration royal families and heads of state because their wealth "derives more from political heritage than from economic effort."

But it doesn't exclude drug dealers. Among the billionaires it lists are Colombia's Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the head of the Medellin cocaine cartel, at about \$3 billion, and Colombia's Ochoa family, at about \$2 billion.

Forbes, in estimates released Tuesday, says the world's wealthiest person for the fourth straight year was Yoshiaki Tsutsumi of Japan, whose railroad and real estate empire includes golf courses, ski resorts and hotels. Forbes estimated his net worth at \$16 billion, up about \$1 billion from last year.

That estimate was far greater than that of rival business magazine Fortune, which put Tsutsumi's net worth at \$3.1 billion last September.

Fortune said the world's richest person is the Sultan of Brunei, at \$25 billion. Forbes excludes heads of state from consideration.

Following the 56-year-old Tsutsumi on the Forbes list was Japanese developer Taichiro Mori, a former economics professor who now owns 78 office buildings. Forbes put Mori's net worth at \$14.6 billion.

Ranked third was the family of Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart, the third-largest U.S. retail chain. Forbes estimates that the Waltons, who also were third-ranked last year, are worth \$13.3 billion, up from \$8.7 billion in 1989.

America's Du Pont family was fourth, with a net worth estimated at \$10 billion. They were followed by Hans and Gad Rausing, two Swedish brothers who control a packaging empire worth \$9.6 billion.

Kitaro Watanabe, a Japanese real estate owner, was sixth at \$9.2 billion. He was followed by Canada's Reichmann brothers, owners of the Olympia and York real estate company, at \$9 billion.

Kenichi Nakajima and his family, founder of Japan's largest maker of Pachinko machines, a gambling game similar to pinball, were eighth at \$8.4 billion.

South Korea's Shin Kyuk-Ho, who owns a candy and real estate

empire, was ninth at \$7 billion to \$8 billion; and Forrest E. Mars and family of the United States, or Mars candy fame, were 10th at an estimated \$6 billion.

Other American families with net worth exceeding \$3 billion were the Newhouse, Hearst and Cox families, which derive their fortunes from publishing and broadcasting; the Bass family of Texas; the Mellon family of banking fame; the Dorrance family, whose wealth comes from Campbell Soup Co.; and Bill Gates, founder of the computer software company Microsoft Corp.

John Werner Kluge remained the richest American individual, according to Forbes. Kluge, founder of the media company Metromedia, has an estimated net worth of \$5.2 billion, placing him in a tie for 12th place on the worldwide list with the Newhouses.

As for Trump, Forbes put his net worth last year at \$1.7 billion, but it dropped sharply this year as the value of his real estate and airline empire crumbled. In April, the magazine said he was worth about a half a billion dollars. Some sources peg it even lower.